Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-142 *26 July 1989*

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Cuba

USSR Message to Castro on National Festivities

FL2507190489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers have issued a message to Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, which says textually:

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro,

On the occasion of the glorious day commemorating the national revolution, we send to you, the PCC Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, and to the brother people of Cuba, our sincerest greetings and our best wishes.

The feat of courageous patriots—the assault on the Moncada Barracks—constituted a historic milestone in the struggle, of many years, of the people of Cuba for their liberation which opened the path for the triumph of the Revolution and the progress of the country to socialism.

We, the Soviets, are sincerely happy about the achievements attained by the Cuban workers under the direction of the PCC in the various sectors of economy, science, culture.

The message to our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro from the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adds:

The Republic of Cuba enjoys a deserved prestige in the international arena and is making a great contribution to the unblocking of tension areas, the strengthening of universal security, and the establishment of a new world economic order.

Our parties and peoples are united by strong friendship ties which have passed the test of time. The Soviet-Cuban Summit held in April 1989 in Havana and the signing of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and Cuba gave new impetus to bilateral relations.

By resolving tasks to make the greatest use of the creative potential of socialism, and taking into consideration the national peculiarities of each country, the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba are working toward the same objective. They also guide themselves by common ideals.

By attributing great importance to the development of Soviet-Cuban relations, we continue creating the necessary premises for the ultimate increase in efficiency of bilateral cooperation in political, economic, and spiritual spheres; we also continue acting in the interest of consolidating the new political mentality in international affairs.

We wish you, dear Comrade Fidel Castro, and all the Cuban people, great success in building socialism. Happiness, prosperity, and peace.

Signed in the Kremlin, Moscow, by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Council of Ministers.

Nicaraguan Defense Minister Tours 'Cuba Area'

FL2507193489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Report by special correspondent Nelson Notario Castro from Managua, Nicaragua]

[Text] Army General [as heard] Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan defense minister, has toured the Cuba Area at the Second International Book Fair in Managua and expressed his views to Cuban television.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] This type of activity, first of all, allows our people to communicate and also gives our society, our people, the opportunity to extensively enrich their knowledge. It allows them to attain a complete understanding of modern thought so that they can be more consistent in their total training.

[Notario Castro] Thank you.

[Ortega] Greetings to the Cuban people on their 26th July anniversary, on their new anniversary. We are sure you will continue to harvest triumphs in our common struggle, just as the people of Nicaragua have done.

[Notario Castro] Nicaragua is ready to win another battle in the Honduras Summit.

[Ortega] We will win it, (?as always). We will win amid great difficulties. We will win with dexterity, ability, flexibility. We will maintain the revolutionary direction with flexibility without using [word indistinct], without schemes, without mechanisms. Otherwise, we would not be able to find a response to such a complex situation as the one that exists in Central America, in Nicaragua.

[Notario Castro] Thank you very much, comrade. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Mozambican President Salutes Relations

FL2507205389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2001 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano saluted today the relations of friendship and cooperation between Mozambique and Cuba and said that, after consolidating the Revolution, our country is focusing on development.

The people's power strengthened by the Cubans allows them to devote themselves to scientific-technical progress at this time and to improve people's living conditions, said the Mozambican head of state during the fifth congress of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party being held in Maputo.

In a document on foreign policy, Frelimo expresses its wishes that the winds of peace that are currently blowing help to eliminate all the areas of tension in Latin America, especially in the Central American nations. Likewise, it supports the peace efforts made by Nicaragua and the Salvadoran insurgency. It also supports the decisions of the Chilean people against the regime and in their search for democracy.

Ricardo Alarcon on U.S. Antidrug Cooperation

PA2607005689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0010 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] In the eastern Cuban province of Camaguey, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said that our country has expressed its willingness to study—along with the United States—plans for joint cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. Alarcon said that to date Cuba has received no response from the United States in this regard.

During a news conference with local and foreign reporters—the latter having arrived in our country for the 26 July festivities—Alarcon said that during the past 30 years, Cuba has struggled effectively against drug trafficking in the region, despite the lack of U.S. Government cooperation and understanding.

Vice Foreign Minister Alarcon said that the most recent trial involving a group of former Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry officers conducted in Cuba is concrete evidence of our Revolution's consistent policy against drug trafficking.

In addition, Ricardo Alarcon clarified that there is no confirmation of any links between the CIA and the Ochoa-De la Guardia case. After saying that such a link would not surprise him, Alarcon supported his opinion with a great deal of data and records proving links between the CIA and drug trafficking activities conducted throughout the world and particularly in the Caribbean region.

Castro Meets With UNESCO Director General

FL2607114589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Last Saturday night [22 July], Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with Dr Federico Mayor Zaragoza, director general of UNESCO. Dr Mayor Zaragoza was making an official visit to our country.

During the extensive meeting, the two men analyzed the progress being made in the scientific and cultural projects being carried out, jointly, by Cuba and this institution.

Dr Mayor Zaragoza expressed his favorable opinions on our scientific institutes, as well as the cultural programs carried out by our nation.

Mr (Hernan Crespo Doral), director of the UNESCO regional office in Cuba, (Joaquin Bonjaume), representative of the UN Development Program, and Armando Hart, Cuban culture minister, also participated in the meeting.

Fidel Castro Tours Camaguey Province 25 Jul

FL2507225989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, toured the dairy basin area in Camaguey Province today. Fidel went to the new rural community called Nicaragua. This is a 300-housing-unit township of multiple family buildings with a complete service network that is about to be finished. The chief of the Revolution was interested in the installations and characteristics of the construction, especially the hauling methods used, consumption of grey and white cement, and the use of cement-based paints.

Later, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, accompanied by Lazaro Vazquez, first secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, visited the family doctor and nurse house-office and talked with Dr Joaquin Alvarez and nurse Maidel Rosello.

At one of the dairies of Camaguey's Triangulo Seis Dairy Enterprise, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro expressed interest in the safety of fiber-cement tiles used on the roof of the installation, especially during strong storms.

Later, the commander in chief visited the zeolite processing plant located at Camaguey's Najasa Municipality. The plant is one of the best ones in the country and will produce 150,000 tons of zeolite a year. It will begin operating on 20 August. Fidel learned about the applications of zeolite in agriculture, mainly in the improvement of soil in the winding area north of Camaguey City, and on the tests being conducted in garlic harvesting. He also talked to workers there and later toured the Najasa township where he visited the area child care center.

Further on Camaguey Tour

FL2607025589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] We will show you footage of the first part of the tour of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro through several Camaguey Province municipalities today. The tour began in the Jimaguayu territory.

[Words indistinct] Camaguey Lazaro Vazquez, began his tour at the new Nicaragua township located in an area of this province's great dairy basin which will have 300 housing units.

[Begin recording] [Castro] What is it going to have?
[First unidentified speaker] What is it going to have?

[Castro] What is planned for over there?
[First speaker] The social circle goes there.

[Castro] The social circle. Where? On the dip over there?
[First speaker] In that area, Commander. The earthwork for the circle needs to be done for the social circle [words indistinct].

[Castro] What has been done already?
[Second unindentified speaker] Well, we have built [words indistinct] and this area for services.

[Castro] A complete area for services?
[Second speaker] It includes a grocery store, an industrial products store, a cultural module, a drug store, a small appliances repair shop, a shoe repair shop...

[First speaker, interrupting] Electrical appliances.

[Castro] Domestic appliances?
[First speaker] For televisions, washing machines and all that.
[Second speaker] A postal and telegraph office and a family doctor office...

[Castro, interrupting] You cannot have three child care centers here?
[Second speaker] No. Two are planned. One is going to be built back here. This is in the second stage.

[Castro] Oh, it's fine. The town is going to be this big?
[Second speaker] This big. In addition to what I explained, the child care center, which is about to be finished, and the semi-boarding primary school. The child care center has room for 90 children...

[Castro, interrupting] Is the semi-boarding school completed already?
[Second speaker] It is about to be completed. It is at a very late stage of being completed.

[Castro] Where is it being built?
[Second speaker] Back here.

[Castro] For how many children is it going to be?
[Second speaker] For 300 children.

[Castro] It is for those children with working mothers?
[Second speaker] A semi-boarding school. [end recording]

Fidel chatted with construction workers during his visit to the new community.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How many men built the doctor house-office?
[First construction worker] [Words indistinct] it was done Commander with a school of bricklayers that turned here in a brigade and they graduated when they finished here.
[Second construction worker] We want you to come back in a year and a half so that you can see a beautiful work of the Revolution.

[Castro] Where do you live?
[Second construction worker] I live in (?Cafe) and [words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct] now you come here as a househusband or what? What did she study?
[Unidentified woman] Livestock engineer.

[Castro] Oh, you are an engineer? How good! Are you going to work here also?
[Woman] I work at [words indistinct].

[Castro] You work at the enterprise. How good.
[Second construction worker] I studied at the Sierra Maestra, at the revolutionary training school. You used to go there a lot in 1963.

[Castro] What did you study?
[Second construction worker] I later went to Villena [words indistinct] as a mid-level technician. It was the second graduation at Villena. There were workers and peasants there and you accelerated the course and we went [words indistinct].

[Castro] So, two are going to live here. Do you have more relatives? Who else is going to live with you?
[Second construction worker] Yes, two kids.

[Castro] Two kids, but they are small. They are going to school.
[Second construction worker] Yes, they are small.

[Castro] They are not going to work in [words indistinct]. [chuckles] You have two more family members but having the child care center and the semi-boarding school you will be able to...
[Second construction worker, interrupting] [Words indistinct] there is no problem.

[Castro] When are you planning to move here?
[Second construction worker] Well, [words indistinct] are working in this area.

[Castro] This is going to be pretty when the residents move in.
[Second construction worker] This is one of the prettiest towns the municipality has built.

[Castro] It is going to be pretty when the children are here and the green areas are in place.

[Second construction worker] Commander, this is only possible through a socialist revolution and a commander like you. I believe that this is a [words indistinct] project...

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] another commander it would be even better. [laughter] [end recording]

Later, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro went to a dairy of the Triangulo Seis Dairy Enterprise where he was told that the construction method used there saves resources considerably, especially cement, sand, and steel.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How are you? Where did you learn about construction?
[First worker] In the minibrigades.

[Castro] Minibrigades in Camaguey?
[First worker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Good afternoon or good morning. I believe it is not yet noon. How are you?
[Second worker] Fine.

[Castro] Do you work in this brigade?
[Second worker] Yes.

[Castro] You are a technician. Where are you from, from Camaguey?
[Second worker] From Camaguey.

[Castro] When did you graduate?
[Second worker] In 1984.

[Castro] So you have 4 years of experience?
[Second worker] Yes, 4 years, 5 years of working in the project since I began the 1st year.

[Castro] Where did you work before getting to the project?
[Second worker] Architecture and planning.

[Castro] In an office? And you were brought here. Where have you learned more?
[Second worker] Here at the project.

[Castro] What is your work here in this project?
[Second worker] My work pertains everything related to the quality of project, conducting the project, and all technical work of the project.

[Castro] Do you have a concrete mixer?
[Second worker] Sure, we have a concrete mixer.

[Castro] What kind of mix of stone, sand, and cement in these projects you are carrying out now?
[Second worker] What kind of mix?

[Castro] What is the proportion you use?

[Second worker] Oh, we mix it at 150 for floors. [passage indistinct]

[Castro] What cement to you use? P2-50?
[Second worker] P2-50.

[Castro] What amount of cement do you use? What do you do to save cement?
[Second worker] We use the (?shovel) to save cement. We have very strict controls.

[Castro] Do you measure well the amounts?
[Second worker] We follow the amounts. [end recording]

Shortly after, Fidel visited the zeolite processing plant which will produce 150,000 tons a year.

[Begin recording] [Castro] What material do you get out of there?
[First unidentified worker] We get three products, 12-25.

[Castro] What is 12-25?
[First worker] It is 12 and 25 millimeters.

[Castro] Is that stone for foundations?
[First worker] Like concrete, for foundations.

[Castro] What percentage [words indistinct]?
[Second worker] From the [words indistinct]. We are going to get 15,000 tons of the 12-25.

[Castro] Is that all?
[Second worker] That is all because we take the rest here for processing.

[Castro] What is the end result of the one that goes for processing?
[Second worker] We end up in three different types.

[Castro] Well, then they are four.
[Second worker] No, there are six in total. Three here and three in the dry area.

[Castro] Which are the three here?
[Second worker] Well, here I have from 0 to 5 millimeters, from 5 to 12, and from 12 to 25.

[Castro] What is the one from 0 to 5 used for?
[Second worker] We are going to use it, basically, it can be used for the support of soil.
[Third worker] [Words indistinct] to take it directly to the soil.

[Castro] To apply it to the improvement of soil, from 0 to 5 and the one from 5 to 12?
[Third worker] For substratum only.

[Castro] Also? And the one from 12 to 25?
[Third worker] For support of the substratum. [Words indistinct] needs to layers.

[Castro] A bigger one underneath?
[Third worker] A heavier layer underneath and [words indistinct].

[Castro] What percentage of production comes out of those three, 0-5, 5-12, and 12-25?
[Third worker] Some 72,600 [words indistinct].

[Castro] Almost half.
[Third worker] Almost half. Some 77,000 less (?tons).

[Castro] What comes out of here?
[Third worker] Three types. A total of 77,000 tons. The 3.8 millimeters is produced. It is for animals.

[Castro] It is 3?
[Third worker] It is for animal feed.

[Castro] Dry?
[Third worker] Dry. From 1 to 3 is for animal feed.

[Castro] From 1 to 3 millimeters for animal feed?
[Third worker] For poultry animal feed.

[Castro] It doesn't have to be grinded?
[Third worker] No. It is for poultry.

[Castro] From 1 to 3.
[Third worker] It is also used in other industrial things. The other one is minus 1 millimeter which is used for beef and pigs.

[Castro] It doesn't need to be grinded later?
[Third worker] No, it is already grinded and comes out classified.

[Castro] It is grinded already [passage indistinct].
[Third worker] Some 28,000 tons. [end recording]

Later, the top leader of our Revolution toured the head township of the Najasa Municipality and visited a child care center.

[Begin recording] [Children are heard chanting: Fidel, Fidel.]

[Unidentified speaker] Commander, we are planning to inaugurate it at the beginning of the school year with the children here. We are planning to inaugurate it in September, at the beginning of the school year. [end recording]

At the end of the tour, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro talked to the press and responded to questions posed by our reporter Maribel Acosta. Following is an excerpt.

[Begin recording] [Acosta] Commander, with all these great projects, I imagine the importance of Camaguey in the next few years in general, in production, in science in the country, taking into account the fact that there is going to be a biotechnology center....

[Castro, interrupting] Are you from Camaguey?
[Acosta] No, I am from Havana but I have been here for a month.

[Castro] Well, you have turned into a person from Camaguey.
[Acosta] I drink water from an earthen vat, commander.

[Castro] I believe Camaguey is going to have a growing importance because it is a province that has great natural resources in agriculture to be developed. It is the one with more space. I wish we could have two or three with the area of marvelous land like the one they have around the City of Camaguey, where the dairy basin is.

I believe the phenomenom taking place in Camaguey is taking place in the rest of the provinces. I have news from Santiago and they are making a huge effort also. The people from Pinar del Rio are making a big effort. We could say.... [changes thought] I went by Sancti Spiritus now. Not so long ago I visited the province. I visited Ciego de Avila. I know what they are doing in Las Tunas and Granma. Fortunately, there is no corner of the country in which they are not working with a spirit similar to that of Camaguey. I believe that Camaguey has been able to improve the work style and method and has [rephrases] we could say it is at the vanguard in this.

Everyone is collecting the experiences of the others. When someone does something positive immediately the other provinces learn and look for.... [changes thought] I even like to recommend that they go from one province to another. Every one of them has had an experience of interest. If we get the best of each province and we apply it in all of them, then the results will be truly great. This is how I see the situation. We will see in 5 more years with the boost Camaguey has at this time.

They are working in rice harvesting, as you said. The work in the flat terraces of rice, it is going to be boosted. The drainage of parcels in cane is going to be boosted. The sun citrus plan is going to be boosted. The tubers and vegetable plans are going to be boosted.

[Acosta] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] The waterworks management program is getting strong. There is no area in which a great effort is not being made. Foodstuffs are being produced. There are the agricultural plans and the pig breeding plans, which are also big. Aquiculture [words indistinct]. Shrimp are being harvested in Manzanillo, in Tunas de Zaza, and in Camaguey. We are going to open a new front in Victoria de las Tunas, in the area that faces toward the [words indistinct]. We are going to open a new front there this year. There are going to be four shrimp harvesting plans.

Rice and cane production should increase a lot with the engineer systems plans. Now we have to increase the production of [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] And prawns, commander.

[Castro] Prawns are going to be left for domestic consumption. We are not as interested in boosting exports. Shrimp is for export. Prawns are another fresh water species. We want to use it basically for domestic consumption, domestic tourism. We would like for this product to get to the population. It is a new item that was not planned. The idea to boost prawn production began a few years ago.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct] Pinar del Rio was conducting tests with rice alternating shrimp with rice. They were rotating rice. They were using canals. Many things are being invented.

They are boosting the production of worms here. We want to use cattle manure, convert it to humus, and produce a large amount of meat flour which is needed in animal feed. It can become an important source of feed, of animal feed, of course, and humus production to improve the conditions of soil for agriculture.

There is another plan—the plan on sacharina and experiments that are being conducted with sacharina. There is the plan of zeolite. You saw today the zeolite plant which was installed in 3 or 4 months. I believe they began in April, so it's May, June, July, and August. It has been going on for 4 months. It is a very important (?cereal). [end recording]

Officials Welcome Group of Internationalists

FL2607115689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] A new contingent of internationalists returned victoriously from the People's Republic of Angola. They were greeted at the air terminal by Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo; Joel Domenech, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers; Brigade General Jose Luis Mesa; other Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry chiefs and officers; and political and mass organization leaders. [passage omitted]

Santiago Holds Provincial Celebration for 26 Jul

FL2507123889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The people of Santiago de Cuba reaffirmed their unconditional support for the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], the Revolution, and Fidel in the provincial ceremony marking the 36th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks.

Cabecera Municipality was, for the second consecutive year, the host municipality for the celebrations marking the day of national rebellion.

Alfredo Jordan, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba Municipality, noted the economic and social goals achieved during the first half of the year. He also noted the efforts that should be made to fulfill this year's mercantile plans.

The ceremony in Santiago de Cuba marking the 36th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks was presided over by Esteban Lazo Hernandez, member of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba Province.

Research Institute Complies With Castro's Plan

FL2507141189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The first 20 (Cardiocids), manufactured under the guidance of commander in chief Fidel Castro, were turned over to Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo. These 20 (Cardiocid-M's) are part of the production plan Fidel requested the Cuban Institute of Digital Research to initiate. The plan also includes 42 other types of medical equipment.

The (Cardiocid) is an important electrical piece that is used in the manufacturing of high-technology medical equipment. Manufacturing of the (Cardiocid) in Cuba is a result of scientific contributions made by the specialists of the Cuban Institute of Digital Research and the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital.

Socialist Fatherland Will Always March Forward

FL2507181589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In just a few hours it will be 26 July. Thirty-six years after the glorious assault on the Moncada Barracks, we find ourselves in the beautiful task of carrying forward one of the most profound revolutions in the history of humanity. Looking at what we have done, and what we have left to do, and knowing that—as a people—we can accomplish it, we can say with Fidel: Here are the facts, the facts speak for themselves.

The Cuban Revolution, we affirm, is and will continue to be the Latin American answer of our time. The path we have traveled has not been easy, because every true revolution is a constant challenge. However, we have victoriously traveled this path resorting only to work, imagination, creativity, internationalist principles, morals, purity, and the prestige that flows from the very project we construct.

As Fidel has taught us, these are the principles that make our defensive shield impenetrable; these are our fundamental weapons of confirmation in the world. We will not be deviated from our path—not even a millimeter—by the pathological hatred of an empire that, for 30

years, has not ceased its desire to annihilate. We shall march toward our objective, doing whatever needs to be done, fighting whatever battle has to be fought, cleansing ourselves of whatever slander we must. We will do this with tenacity, enthusiasm, audacity, knowledge, and optimism. We shall always remember our true martyrs and heroes, those who—before and after the assault on Moncada—shed their blood for the worthy, pure, and clean socialist fatherland that we enjoy and build today.

*** Job Program for Returning Combatants Discussed**
32480179 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Jun 89 pp 30-31

[Interview with Alfredo Diaz Urbay and Teobaldo Iglesias Garcia by Amado Cordova, date and place not given]

[Text] The internationalist combatants continue to arrive from Angola. They are returning victorious, having rendered disinterested service to the freedom, integrity, and independence of sister nations.

As the former combatants put away their rifles and backpacks, which are still at the ready, and take civilian jobs, one might wonder where they will be going and what they will be doing.

A quick and categorical answer would be that the revolutionary government is pursuing a top-priority jobs policy for the internationalists.

But answers always demand nuances, details, and specifics. BOHEMIA interviewed Alfredo Diaz Urbay, the director of labor resources of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS), to obtain them.

From Words to Deeds

[Diaz Urbay] In the first place I must underscore that the party has not just charted a policy to be pursued; it has also been making sure that it is properly applied at all levels. All social forces have thus been united in achieving this goal.

Here we have established a very well coordinated line of action between the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR), the Commission for Attention to Combatants, the central agencies of the State, the CETSS, the directorates of labor of the People's Government, and other groups both national and local.

[BOHEMIA] What specific measures have been taken?

[Diaz Urbay] Although we could say that we are in the initial phase of this work, a wide range of jobs are already being offered to all internationalists as soon as they return to the country. We are even looking into the possibility of having these opportunities offered to them from the very moment that they sail from Angola, in other words, having our specialists make the crossing with them. Because so far the first real contact or recruitment is done at the Labor Orientation Center, which is located in the transition unit.

Through this channel more than 60 percent of those who did not have permanent jobs, both those in the General Military Service and the FAR reservists, have accepted the initial options and in some cases even more than one.

[BOHEMIA] And what options have they been given?

[Diaz Urbay] The ministries of construction, steelworking industry, and basic industry, the UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises], the National Revolutionary Police, and the Urban Bus Enterprise of the City of Havana are permanently represented at the center.

[BOHEMIA] Just these organizations?

[Diaz Urbay] No, these and almost all others in the country. I just mentioned to you the ones that are most visible. For example, Light Industry and Food Industry come once a week to furnish information and do their recruiting. In the next few days we will have a stronger presence on the part of Light Industry, tourism in general, and the ministries of transportation, sugar, and agriculture.

This top priority has been met so far and will continue to be met.

At the Transition Unit

After coordinating with the command of the Transition Unit, we were received by Teobaldo Iglesias Garcia, the CETSS specialist in labor resources, who spoke to us about his job there.

[Iglesias Garcia] I'm here to offer combatants returning from Angola detailed information about their future work life, and in this connection I coordinate with the organizations represented at the center.

The day after each group arrives, a meeting is held at which I explain to them what their rights are, the job opportunities that the State offers them in keeping with the country's development, where they have to go after their vacations, and what person they ought to see in each place of residence.

Later, each organization does its own individual orientation and recruitment work by way of local radio [radio base], videotapes, films, pamphlets, folders, and displays. The unit has supported us a great deal in all this. Moreover, technical training and specialization courses are included as part of the options.

Now then, the placement selected here is put into effect at the municipal labor directorates, where further offers are, in turn, made to those who have not yet chosen a job.

In every case it is made quite clear that they must be told in the greatest detail what the job consists of, what the prospects for advancement are, and what the working and wage conditions are.

I should repeat, by the way, that the ones who had stable jobs at a work center when they left on their internationalist mission can return to them.

[BOHEMIA] What plans are there to improve this program?

[Iglesias Garcia] I think that we have a long way to go before achieving qualitatively superior guidance and, therefore, a better selection by the interested parties. But as has already been said, we are studying and discussing new ideas with other organizations and with the Education Ministry.

It remains to be seen how the municipalities and enterprises are able to make use of this exceptional labor force.

* Bulgarian Economic Reform Effort Viewed

32480180 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Jun 89 pp 68-73

[Report by Elsa Claro: "Bulgaria: Searching and Reassessing"]

[Text] The process of partial economic reforms that Bulgaria has been putting into practice for the last 3 years or so has several forerunners, has not been implemented in its entirety, and has undergone changes. Other changes may be made, as experience is gained, because the process has been so conceived.

These facts and a reading of the main documents, which explain the reasons for the changes and how they are made, enable us to conclude that the Balkan nation has undertaken this far-reaching enterprise not in a makeshift manner but rather after studying the shortcomings in the construction of socialism there after four decades of undeniable gains along the development path that they plan only to improve, not abandon.

This incisive analysis seeks to get to the bottom of the major problems thwarting a continuation of the steady progress that was achieved during previous periods and that has slowed somewhat in recent times.

The in-depth and detailed study was submitted to the plenum of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party at the session that began on 28 July 1987, and it both brought to light the shortcomings and their causes and made suggestions about how to eliminate them by way of a model that is applicable to the country's specific conditions.

The study did not neglect the two facets of the general problem: causes and effects, and how to eliminate what is regarded or has been identified as harmful to stable, rising growth.

A Few Whys

At the opening of the plenum, Todor Zhivkov posed the following questions in an introductory address based on the premises of the study:

"Why, in spite of the historic leap that we made during the victorious period, are we running into problems that the socialist regime can and must resolve?

"Why, in spite of the indisputable advantages of socialism, are we still unable to emerge from the trap of extensive factors?

"Why, in spite of the great attention that we pay to boosting our scientific potential, has science not yet really become a productive force?

"Why are there negative phenomena and distortions that harm the vital interests of the workers in the society that has the most humane, most just regime?

"Why, even though we have resolved man's basic problems and created a solid material and productive base, do we have shortages of certain widely used services and widely consumed goods?

"Why are deviations allowed when the party plays its policymaking role?

"Why have some leaders lapsed into bureaucracy, not taking the law into account and placing themselves above it?

"Why is the productive and scientific-technical integration of the CEMA countries lagging seriously behind objective needs?"

An Attempt To Respond

Many of these problems and perhaps others that could be added are quite widespread—common, I would say—to a good number of socialist nations, which, nevertheless, have their differences (Aside from geographic and demographic differences, they have not started from the same level of development and do not have the same history or similar cultural foundations and technologies, and their experiences with this system do not run parallel).

There is another factor that cannot be ignored in this day and age. Socialist nations are not the only ones seeking prescriptions for recovery. When all is said and done,

they are not the ones in which the worst social phenomena are to be found, as we can readily see at present, notwithstanding all of the negative traits that may exist in any one of them.

Seeking the Cause

Bulgarian scholars have identified the cause of the problems to be addressed, of the hindering factors. It is the fact that the direct producer is somewhat distant from or indifferent to what he creates, even though society remunerates him for his work and provides him with additional goods and benefits. This is the effect. They think that the cause is to be found in the forms of property that have been adopted. I quote:

"...Dogmatism in the sphere of socialist property has done serious damage to science itself. It is altogether understandable why, now, the weakest link in the theory of socialist construction is problems of property."

In light of a judgment such as this, which is one of the hubs of the reforms, most of the measures aimed at making changes revolve around this factor. Laws and regulations governing the various kinds of property have thus been enacted: property of all the people, cooperative property, municipal property, joint property, etc.

The idea is not new, as such variations have been applied in various socialist nations, Bulgaria included. In keeping with the current approach, of course, Bulgaria attaches particular importance to the local level.

From a territorial standpoint, they restructured the country into a different politico-administrative configuration. They turned the 28 provinces into 9 economic regions, in which the municipalities (300 of them) play a much more important role in government and administration.

Groups of people are likewise accorded a preponderant position. Thus, labor collectives carry much more weight now because they can both purchase stocks or bonds and create firms or associations.

Groups of individuals, several enterprises, or social organizations can set up these arrangements. At the same time, attempts have been made to take care of some links in the services sector. This is the case of the transportation cooperatives, in which private vehicles are allowed to be used as regular taxis outside work hours.

Since no experiment is free of inconsistencies, let us see what Marina Petkova said in an investigative report in Sofia News on 8 February. First she asks: "What does society gain by coordinating two incompatible activities? Might not the price that we will have to pay be too high?" She cites figures in her article: "Of the 820 drivers in the Cooptaxi office in Sofia, more than 30 percent have a college education, and almost half of the ones who engage in this activity in the capital have degrees."

Although he accepts and praises the efficiency of this type of cooperative, sociologist Emil Kohem, seeking to answer her questions, says, among other things: "...the low wages of the specialists with a university education explain, first and foremost, why they have gone into the services sector en masse...It is abnormal for a service that requires less skilled work to provide a larger income than a highly skilled job does..."

Kohem then advises: "...the intellectual work of physicians, professors, engineers, and scientific personnel should be utilized rationally, on the one hand, and be well paid, on the other, so that they have no reason to seek additional work by practicing professions that do not require advanced training."

The Crux

All change entails risks. Although, for example, the law provides that retail prices will not be altered, owing to the equalization of wholesale prices and the going prices on the world market the principle of not hurting the pocketbook of the average Bulgarian could be violated. This concern has been expressed in the press, albeit with the postscript that improving the economy carries a price.

Bulgaria has followed this premise of reform in the past and is doing so at present as well. Whenever something does not turn out to be valid or timely or when a path turns out to be the wrong one, corrections are made, and another variation is tested.

We come here to the crux of the issue. Whereas the preceding paragraphs speak of parts of the whole, the following is the macro-objective of the process: "To turn Bulgaria into a highly developed socialist State with a high level of culture." What do they mean by this? They mean:

"That the country should be in the forefront of the scientific and technological revolution.

"That in terms of labor productivity and increases in national income, it should be among the world's vanguard countries.

"That the nation should make use of its creative potential so that it can fully develop its intellectual potential.

"That we should achieve a qualitatively new standard of living.

"That we should create qualitatively new conditions for the comprehensive and fullest development of the personality."

And through what mechanisms are they trying to achieve these goals?

They feel that an improvement in all spheres is not enough; they must undergo a sweeping transformation. In other words, economic and social structures must be modified in such a way that, while retaining what is regarded as positive, a move is made towards better conditions by utilizing the country's full potential.

They feel that they can achieve their objectives through self-management as the core or foundation of the overall system or model that they are applying.

The basic components of the political system must also be changed, they feel, so that they are compatible with economic reform. The basic reason for this change is that:

"Some of the links in the existing political system are a breeding ground for bureaucrats and social distortions. In many cases they are spawning grounds for those officials who lag behind in life and oppose what is new, progressive....

"...The three components of our political system are independent today structurally, institutionally, and functionally. Each has its own agencies, its own operating mechanism, and its own hierarchy of units. Each makes certain decisions, and there is always one objective, as we have underscored several times."

All documents and analyses emphasize that the party will retain its policymaking role, while separating its political functions from its administrative functions, which were once combined.

Moving Against Bureaucracy

A heavy assault has been undertaken, in fact, against the bureaucracy and the methods that are inherent to it in the administrative spheres, and there have reportedly been some results. Several ministries were merged at one point, but the upshot was huge, uncontrollable machines that were perhaps the opposite of what was required. This could be appropriate in some branches; in others, the associations that have been set up might be best. Tests are conducted in dialectic fashion, always with the clear-cut purpose of eliminating harmful effects, and at the same time structures are abolished or replaced by others that are assumed to be more efficient or that the changes themselves demand.

In spite of precautions, longstanding vices are still evident, frustrating even the best intentions. What this shows is that no matter how comprehensive the goals may be, and perhaps for this very reason, it takes time, hard work, and ongoing vigilance to eradicate such vices.

A cable last November illustrates the problems that they are trying to tackle. It says that 143 installations were built illegally by the General Directorate of Roads and some of the self-run organizations that replaced several ministries a year and a half ago. They built recreational centers and similar structures with funds that had been allocated for a different purpose; some were even put up in nature reserves, where they have long been banned by law.

Under a government ruling the structures were thereafter to be used as day-care or medical centers or for domestic or international tourism, and charges were filed against the responsible parties.

Also punished were improper use of transportation by enterprises that refused to comply with mandatory reductions in their fleet and with the routes for taxi-stand vehicles. The equipment was taken from the offending enterprises, which were left with the percentage indicated in existing regulations. These are minor examples that tell us the following: the new can contain something of the old. An effort is being made to control incipient distortions.

"...This will be a difficult, complex, and probably painful process, but there is no alternative. Either society takes decisive steps to stem the bureaucracy, or bureaucracy will continue to do increasingly serious economic, political, and moral damage to socialism and start a chain reaction of other social distortions."

In our opinion, the word bureaucracy has more than one meaning and is not associated only with woes that have taken root in the fruitful soil of socialism. In both Bulgaria and other nations, certain sections of an administrative organization are conducive to situations and actions that are altogether at odds with principles. Will our Bulgarian friends succeed in putting a straitjacket on them?

Stock Taking Indispensable

We can even generalize about a number of factors (the studies into the roots of certain problems and shortcomings) that while not identical in each country, do have similarities (Might this be a consequence of adopting the models of others without tailoring them to the circumstances in which they are to be applied?).

Some of the developments mentioned in the study that we have roughly outlined remind us of certain steps that other socialist nations have taken (without taking anything away from Bulgarian originality). Almost all of the ones that have undertaken reforms of one kind or another seem to be moving in the direction of a market economy, for example. Economic integration (expanding the existing economy) is another predominant feature of recent projects.

Bulgaria's watchword, we must reiterate, is that the Communist Party is the maximum leader of society; the principle of planning is retained. Its documents mention the importance of staying in CEMA (within which the country plays a distinguished and most useful role in the international division of labor), but do not disparage

other options. Negotiations with the European Economic Community for membership and broader participation in that market are thus already at an advanced stage. The legislation on judicial reforms, the basic decrees for the self-managed economy, and other legal instruments that will enable the restructuring to gain momentum in all spheres have already been approved, moreover.

Several local experiments are being conducted to assess their advantages before they are implemented on a national scale. An experiment that does not bear fruit is terminated. The search is for the touchstone in agriculture, a sector in which appreciable results have been obtained but in which the keys have not yet been found (shortcomings in infrastructure and in some organizational approaches) even though this is a field in which diverse models have been applied over time.

We will have to wait and see, assessing successes and failures, whether as in wise natural selection, this directed, not spontaneous model, comes up with the hoped for "species."

[Box, p 69] Ideas and Goals

—In several instances our society's humanism has become little less than charity.

—Wages ought to be earned by virtue of results, not for showing up at a job, filling a post, etc.

—...An awareness of reciprocal responsibility and mutual respect throughout the horizontal and vertical chain in the process of social reproduction will be the main factor in the new social climate.

—Conditions will be created to overcome the manifestations of passivity, indifference, and alienation; the sense of responsibility, conscientiousness, and self-conscientiousness will be enhanced, because each individual will begin to feel inside himself the oneness of individual and social interest.

[Box, p 70] An Opportune Digression

The seeds of the sharp decline in the world economy in the 1970's were sown long before. Today, almost 20 years later, the panorama is quite clear, and the major, obvious effects and even the causes have been recognized and identified. The roots of the problem are known with certainty. They are: unfair trade, the lending through which the dependent nations made the developed nations rich, and the subsequent "disease"—the debt, the effects of which are just now beginning to manifest themselves.

The United States can no longer be kept out of the picture as the "sower." The United States arrogated the right to tell others what to do, as it had long been doing with its "backyard." Meanwhile, the countries hurt by the Second World War were forced to rebuild and make headway against the clock (Have you ever thought how many years the nations that lost the most had to make up during the postwar period?).

The United States had a great many advantages in the race but finally fell into its own trap. The arms race spiral sucked it into the whirlpool of decline, into which it is now dragging the others.

The economic problems that the socialist nations are experiencing today have their own causes. Nevertheless, because they are located on this planet, not another, they "owe" a great deal to the conflict that the United States created as the "manager" of world finances. To date the capitalist models for surmounting the crisis have fallen far short of offering solutions.

[Box, p 71] State Regulation

Article 82. The State regulates economic activity through a system of taxes, tariffs, subsidies, foreign exchange regulations, interest rates, work-remuneration rules, amortization standards, price-setting rules, and State requisitions.

Article 83.1. The State plan and budget set the basic objectives, paces, and magnitudes; the material, financial, foreign exchange, and other balances; the tasks of social development, the changes in the macrostructure, the comprehensive development of the local communities, and the guidelines for the country's participation in the international division of labor and in socialist integration, as well as economic conditions, standards, and regulators.

Article 84.1. State requisitions can be made only to comply with international commitments, social-policy tasks and tasks to achieve strategic, technological, and commercial objectives, and to guarantee national security and basic national balances.

(Decree No 56, Section IV, Basic Articles)

[Box, p 72] 1989 Indicators

Bulgaria's industrial production was up 9.3 per[illegible] the first quarter of 1989 compared to the same period the year before. The balance sheet of the Central Directorate of Statistics shows that the highest growth rates were in the electronics industry (12 percent), the transportation-equipment industry, agriculture, and construction (6.6 percent), chemicals and biotechnology (5.7 percent), and light industry (5.3 percent), which make up 83 percent of the sector.

Production costs fell, and profits were up by 5.3 percent. Although the merchandise earmarked to supply the population was up 12 percent, the performance of the domestic market was not satisfactory.

In assessing the main shortcomings of the national economy, the report emphasizes the failure of numerous enterprises to comply with production commitments, the excessive use of raw materials, and problems with the quality of items on the basis of the established standards.

According to the report, the period under analysis is characterized by an increase in self-managed firms and the application of the new economic regulators. Five mixed companies were set up with Soviet and Italian enterprises, and 20 State firms and some 400 private ones were registered.

It also reports that new technology has been brought into the country in the production sphere. Two-fifths of national investment was earmarked for this purpose.

(Data taken from a PRENSA LATINA dispatch, Sofia, 25 April 1989)

Antigua and Barbuda

Six Labor Party Members Resign Seats

FL2507155089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2138 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] St John's, Antigua, July 24, CANA—The Antigua and Barbuda House of Representatives will convene a special session Tuesday to facilitate the resignation of six members of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP), whose election the opposition challenged in court following a controversial March 9 poll.

The six candidates along with the ALP's Henderson Simon, whose St John's City West seat was nullified by the high court, are resigning to face by-elections in their respective constituencies. They are Vere Bird Jr, St John's Rural South; Hilroy Humphreys, All Saint's West; Eustace Cochrane, All East and St Luke; Adolphous Freeland, St George; Molwyn Joseph, St Mary's North and Hugh Marshall, St Mary's South.

Attorney-General Keith Forde will move a motion in the house calling for a writ of election to be issued for by-elections in the seven constituencies. There aare 18,648 persons eligible to vote in the poll, likely to be held in August.

It will be the first time in 21 years that more than one seat will be contested in a single by-election here.

The candidates agreed to resign rather than face a high court challenge by unsuccessful candidates of the opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP). The opposition candidates contended that irregularities, including a shortage of ballot papers and the subsequent extension of voting by three hours in some constituencies seriously affected their chances of winning.

The UNDP candidate for St John's City West, former government minister Donald Halstead, was successful in his court action. He is unlikely to contest the by-election, because he is in England studying law.

The pending resignations by the ALP candidates has been criticised by the UNDP as a "political ploy," but the left-wing Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement [CACLM] has supported the government's decision, arguing it will save taxpayers a lot of money.

The UNDP is pushing for electoral reforms prior to the by-elections, while the ACLM wants all candidates to be given equal time on radio and television to present their views.

Further on Resignations

FL2407233989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] St John's, Antigua, July 25, CANA—Six Antigua Labour Party (ALP) members of parliament formally resigned on Tuesday [25 July] to face by-elections after their seats were challenged in the high court following the controversial March 9 general elections.

They are Hugh Marshall—St Mary's South, Aldophous Freeland—St George, Hilroy Humphreys—All Saints West, Eustace Cochrane—All Saints East and St Luke, Mowlyn Joseph—St Mary's North and Vere Bird Jr—St John's Rural South.

"These members have now resigned and their seats have become vacant. It has now become necessary for the issue of a writ for a new election to take place. This will be put into motion in due course," Speaker of the House of Representatives Casforsd Murray said.

The candidates based their resignation an the outcome of a high court ruling which nullified the election in the St John's City West Constituency on a challenge by the opposition United National Democratic Party candidate Donald Halstead.

Halstead and the six other unsuccessful UNDP candidates had contended that shortage of ballot papers, a late start in polling and the extension of voting by three hours were serious electoral breaches. The St Johns City West seat will also be contested in a by-election.

The by-elections are expected to be held in August.

Marshall said his resignation was a show of morality and democracy. The trade minister also explained that the resignation of himself and his colleagues will save the taxpayers a large amount of money.

"My government has spent by my own guesstimation perhaps about half a million dollars for the hearing of this case (election petition filed by Donald Halstead). I

would therefore like to suggest that all the cases would cost about three and a half million dollars. I consider this by a very costly exercise to the taxpayers in this country," he explained.

Health and Labour Minister Adolphous Freeland explained that he has resigned because he does not want any cloud to be hanging over his head. "Because we have to regularize the situation, I don't want to be sitting in this house with something hanging over my head. I don't want to be parliamentarian where down the road my children are vexed with me because I get wrong votes.

Leader of the opposition Baldwin Spencer said he would only step down if the present government resigns and calls fresh general elections. "The only time that I would resign is if the whole government decides to resign and all of us go back there. Enough has been said. Enough has been done to suggest that we have the whole thing over again. If that is the case, I'm with you on that. I'm quite prepared to subject myself to that situation," Spencer remarked. He criticised the decision that the ALP candidates to resign as a political ploy.

"It is a strategy by the ALP cleverly devise to save themselves further embarrassment by not having all the cases being heard by the court. It has nothing to do with morality and honesty," Spencer added.

Dominican Republic

Teachers Return to Classroom; Doctors Strike

FL2507151989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Teachers in the Dominican Republic say they will return to the classrooms today after a 75-day strike. The Dominican Congress is considering legislation that would give teachers a pay raise.

Meanwhile, the strike of Dominican government doctors continued for a 15th day with no end in sight. Military doctors have taken over emergency services for the striking physicians.

Grenada

Herbert Blaize Given 2 Weeks To Call Elections

FL2507232589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2318 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 25, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was on Tuesday [25 July] given two weeks by an opposition leader to call general elections or face a no confidence vote. The ultimatum is contained in a letter to Blaize, signed by National Democratic Congress parliamentary leader George Brizan, sent a day after two ministers said they would abandon the government and put it in a minority in parliament.

NDC party leader Nicholas Brathwaite said the newly-formed National Party under Mr Blaize does not have the mandate of the people and so the prime minister must respond positively to the letter.

"If the prime minister does not respond in the manner which we have suggested then we would have to use the constitutional requirement that a vote of no confidence should be moved in the government," Brathwaite told CANA.

"If the government is defeated—and I am sure it would be defeated on the basis of the impending resignation of two of its members—then the Constitution provides that there should be elections within three months," Brathwaite said. But the motion could be delayed if there is not a sitting of the House of Representatives soon.

Brathwaite said that although there was a constitutional requirement that parliament should meet once a month at least, but during the past few years in Grenada that had hardly been honoured. He said it was true that the NDC cannot determine when parliament will next meet.

In the letter to Blaize, the NDC described as an unspeakable surprise, the planned resignation this week of two government ministers after two others were fired last week.

Dismissed Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell, has vowed to topple the government here and warned Prime Minister Blaize to expect a no confidence motion at the next sitting of parliament. But Blaize said on Monday he will not be forced out of office.

Last Thursday [20 July], Blaize dismissed Mitchell who was elected leader of the National Democratic Party in January, and Minister of State for National Security Larry Joseph, the NNP chairman. Then on Friday, Blaize announced a break with the NNP and formation of his own National Party.

Meantime, Grenada's electoral office was visibly abuzz with activity and Assistant Supervisor of Elections Carol Jerome said on Tuesday preliminary voters lists were already up at prominent places on the island. She said people are now supposed to scrutinise the lists to verify accuracy.

"The preliminary list was complete in June, we went into another month of registration (this month) and this will be added as a supplementary list to the final list when that comes out (in September)," she told CANA. The life of the present parliament expires in December.

Union Accused of Interfering in Internal Politics

FL2507203789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 25, CANA—Head of Grenada's National Democratic Congress (NDC) Nicholas Brathwaite has accused the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) of interfering in the island's internal political affairs. Brathwaite claimed that a number of personnel from the CDU—a grouping of right-wing and centrist political parties—were engaged in "surreptitious underground" activities in Grenada. He said these people were getting involved in the politics of the country by providing direct training to its affiliate, the New National Party (NNP). "This is totally unacceptable," he told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

CDU activists were also alleged to have played a role in the last general elections in St Lucia.

Brathwaite said the NDC was not against the CDU as an organisation but was opposed to it sending its people into Grenada to participate directly in the politics of Grenada. He spoke of the NDC having no quarrel with the CDU if it had provided funds for NNP to train its own people or to take some of them abroad for training.

"What we are saying is that Grenadians, who are the ones in their own country, should be directly involved in the political process and we don't want foreigners to come and get involved," he said. "I wouldn't even have a quarrel if the CDU had a seminar in Grenada for people involved in political work in an open way", he said.

The CDU has often put at the disposal of the NNP several people to help the party do field work.

CDU Chairman Edward Seaga, while addressing an NNP banquet here last Saturday night, outlined the assistance which the group was giving to the local party. Seaga, Jamaica's opposition leader, said the CDU team at work in Grenada was providing training at the grass roots level "in the principles of organisation and systems of organisation." He said the CDU often did this type of work in member countries in order to help them get the maximum amount of support from among the electroate. According to Seaga, this is even more necessary in small countries where, because the electoral division is so small, the loss of 60-100 votes can make a difference between winning and losing a seat.

Haiti

URH's Francisque Warns Against Hasty Elections

FL2507175289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Political leaders have been stating their positions on elections and making recommendations to the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], who are in charge of organizing the elections in a fully independent manner.

For his part, Edouard Francisque, leader of the Union for the Revival of Haiti, URH, says that elections are a necessity for Haiti but that the CEP members must take their time, so as to organize elections properly. They must not rush to do things too hastily and fail to obtain good results.

We must not have another 29 November 1987, said Mr Francisque, who is in favor of elections being held in Haiti but who thinks the CEP must take its time and organize proper elections at all levels. We will have you listen to Mr Francisque.

[Francisque] I am fully in favor of elections, because if we don't have elections we will remain in a provisional situation and won't be able to plan for the development of the country. Also, foreign countries that might be able to give us a hand are observing us, waiting for elections. Thus, I am in favor of elections. However, I am not in favor of elections being held just any old way, under any old conditions.

We have to take our time in holding these elections. Considering the fact that the population has been hurt, traumatized, ever since the 29 November 1987 thing.... [changes thought] Yesterday, I dropped by a friend's house. He said to me: I'm sure not going to go vote, because I'm not going to expose myself to bullets again. People still don't have any confidence.

There must be elections. However, first there must be security in Haiti. Conditions must be such that the Haitian people regain their confidence.

In my opinion, the CEP must begin preparing all the electoral lists for all communes, all rural sectors. Next, the work of intense explaining must be done. There must be propaganda, so the people will vote for whomever they wish to have in the Casecs [Administrative Council for the Communal Section]. Democracy cannot start at the top. It begins at the bottom. [passage omitted]

Then elections for communal magistrates could be held. When the population sees that the candidates it wanted as communal magistrate in all the communes were indeed elected, its confidence will be restored. The population will have seen that things went off without fraud, with no swindling, with no big fuss.

At that point, you could go on to the third step: elections for deputies and senators. At that point, the people would have begun to regain confidence, for things would be going well. The population would also have seen that there had been no disorder or acts of banditry, that the people they wanted were indeed elected, and that the same thing occurred in connection with the communal magistrates—in other words, that the magistrates they had wanted were elected. At that point, the population would then say to itself: The elections for deputies and senators will go off the same way. The population will have regained confidence. [passage omitted]

Then, in a fourth step, presidential elections could be held by universal suffrage. The population will have already regained confidence and will be used to voting.

However, I have heard that a number of people have said: Oh yes, you must hold elections between now and October.

It is already mid-July. There are not even any electoral lists yet. You don't even have a structure prepared for that yet. The population is not even into elections the way they think they ought to be held yet. How are you ever going to get people to regain confidence so that elections can be held at all levels as of October, November, or December? It is not at all possible. [passage omitted]

Listen, you talk about Haitian resources! You know what kind of shape Haiti's resources are in! We don't even need to discuss it. We must definitely have some help in organizing elections.

The first time we had foreign help. They sent paper, ballot boxes, and other materials and equipment for us. What are you going to hold elections with, if you don't have that material aid? Why, some places won't even have ballots!

All the polling stations must be well-prepared, well-organized. You have to know in advance who you are going to put in the polling stations, who is a serious person, who has credibility, and so on. That kind of thing takes time. You can't rush through it. [passage omitted]

Oh, I am in favor of their beginning the process this very year. They have 5 or 6 months ahead of them. They could start at the bottom, with the Casecs elections. Perhaps they could hold the municipal elections some 2 months later, and perhaps the legislative elections 2 or 3 months after that. But at least the electoral process will have already been set in motion, and perhaps 2 or 3 months later.... [changes thought] They could have elections by stages, by degrees, every 2 or 3 months, until they get to the presidential elections.

Military, Others Arrested in Cocaine Seizure

FL2507165689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A large amount of cocaine, 504 kg, was seized yesterday in Jeremie. [passage omitted] Seven people were arrested by the narcotics bureau in Jeremie, among them three members of the Armed Forces: two enlisted men and one officer. The two enlisted men were posted in Thomassin.

The drug, the estimated value of which is between $10-15 million, was hidden under bags of charcoal. The drug traffickers, who pretended to be charcoal vendors, tried to bribe a member of the Armed Forces, who alerted his superiors. This is what led to the police roundup.

Among the persons arrested is Mrs Mimose Jeanty, who is well-known to the police. She was interrogated by the military authorities last April during the coup d'etat attempt against General Avril. Mrs Jeanty was suspected of having participated in the coup attempt.

The 504 kg of cocaine seized constitute the second most important cocaine confiscation ever made in Haiti. In July 1988, 700 kg of cocaine were confiscated by the narcotics bureau. Here is [reporter] Marcus on the drug situation.

[Marcus] In Jeremie in the Grande Anse, the narcotics service, assisted by local Armed Forces personnel, made what is perhaps the second most important drug seizure in Haiti since the beginning of the year. [sentence as heard] A total of 504 kg of cocaine from Colombia estimated at $9 million were confiscated. Two of the allegedly guilty parties were arrested: Mrs Mimose Jeanty and Mr Jean-Claude Jean. A third person, Mr Robert Coradin, fled. Meanwhile, the police are continuing their investigation to find the guilty parties and their accomplices, as Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval of the narcotics service explains.

[Begin Duperval recording] This is an operation that just took place in Jeremie. The operation was effected together with the military personnel in Jeremie. Colonel Beaubrun is the departmental commander. We were able to find, confiscate, approximately 504 kg of cocaine. However, I think it is still too early to make a long statement, for, as (?I) have always said, there must be an investigation. This investigation will reveal who the accomplices are and who the people really responsible are, and the courts will decide their fate. [end recording]

[Marcus] The narcotics service undertook a vast operation against drug traffickers back in April 1989. We remind listeners that several people accused of drug trafficking were arrested last April, among them Mrs Mimose Jeanty, who is today under arrest in this affair. Jeanty had also been suspected of being in complicity with the putschist colonels. She denies any participation in this new affair. [passage omitted]

Jean-Claude Jean, whom the police accuse of having attempted to bribe a member of the Armed Forces at the Jeremie airfield by offering him $4,000, says more or less the same thing as Mrs Jeanty. [passage omitted] We remind listeners that last year, several persons accused of drug trafficking were arrested but were released before they appeared in court—a situation kept up, of course, by those who were benefiting greatly from it.

Measures Against FADH Members Announced

FL2507172189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[All names as heard]

[Text] Here in Haiti, the military high command has taken certain measures against certain members of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], found to be at fault. Lieutenant Antoine Clarel Metellus underwent a general court martial convened last January at the general headquarters of the Port-au-Prince police. Last May he was found guilty of homicide against Shoubert Baptiste, a former employee of National Haitian Television. Lt Metellus was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment and demoted to the rank of private with loss of all pay and allowances. After serving his sentence, he will be discharged from the FADH.

Enlisted man Celidon Watson was discharged from the FADH for violating military discipline and for being the presumed author of the murder in Port-au-Prince on 29 April of this year of Mr Gerard Laforest, former director of the Haitian State Lottery. Watson was turned over to the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince for the necessary legal follow-up.

Sergeant Jean Stenio and enlisted man Brisseau Yves have been discharged from the FADH for conduct harmful to the proper order and military discipline and for being the presumed authors of the theft perpetrated on the night of 19 March in Jacmel. They have been turned over to the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Jacmel for the necessary legal follow-up.

The case of enlisted man Dominique Jean Fanfan, who is accused of homicide, is pending before the investigating commission formed for that purpose. Other cases are (?currently being judged). These cases concern officers and enlisted men who deserted in the month of April, such as: Guy Andre Francois, colonel, FADH; Guy Philippe Michel, 2d lieutenant; Christophe Augustin, adjutant; Joseph Maccene, adjutant; Virgil Ernso, quartermaster sergeant [sergent fourrier]; Corporals Compte Jean Renaud, Fleury, Jean Lesly, Henry, Luc, also known as Marc, and Pierre Riche; musician 3d class Berliose Guillaume; Privates 1st Class Civil Jean Vanel, Canon, Jean Wils, and Conserve Jean-Francois; and Privates Bellevue, Newton, Bouloute, Jean Wilner, Joassaint Mario, Maseille E. Jean, Etienne Charitable, Erald Auguste, Gerome Jean Raymond, Joseph Edoiel, Jean Berthony, Louis-Sius Louis, Noel E. Emmanuel, Pierre Jean Diemps, Pierre Christnole, Rock, Narum, Symbert Jean Claude, Theodor Normil, Thomas Jean-Jacques, Carius Fritz Jean, and Dondon A. Christian. According to this Ministry of Information and Coordination press release, the cases of these enlisted men and officers are currently being tried.

Jamaica

Prime Minister Manley Departs for New York

FL2507152789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 24, CANA—Prime Minister Michael Manley left Jamaica Monday for New York for "formal discussions on a number of economic matters." He is accompanied by his permanent secretary, Don Brice, and is expected back home on Wednesday.

Manley's office declined to say who he was meeting or to give specifics of his talks.

In an interview with the Sunday GLEANER newspaper here, Manley, responding to a question about his frequent trips abroad since coming to office, responded that the travelling of the political directorate was going to get heavier not lighter and the sooner the public understood this the better. He noted that the world was becoming smaller in terms of economies, production and finances and governments were now more dependent on multilateral and bi-lateral arrangements. "If you cannot keep your country at the forefront of these aid agencies which provide almost the lifeblood of survival...you'd only end up at the bottom of the pile...and I will travel as much as is necessary for Jamaica to remain at the top of the pile."

In his absence, Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson will act as prime minister.

Alcoa Strike May Affect More of Bauxite Sector

FL2507190889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1828 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 25, CANA—Production workers at the Alcoa refinery were on a pay strike on Tuesday for the fourth successive day as fears mounted that the action might spread to the rest of the local bauxite-alumina sector.

The Alcoa contract expired last December 31, and the 500 workers are asking for a 23 percent salary increase with 11 percent in succeeding years of the contract. The company is, however, maintaining that it must abide by the 10 per cent wage guideline laid down by the government.

Commenting on the strike, executive director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute Dr Carlton Davis said that it could not have come at a worse time as Jamaica was developing momentum towards gaining a larger share of the world market.

The strike could prove costly to Jamaica's precarious foreign exchange situation and to a U.S.45 million pre-financing arrangement which Alcoa has with the Marc Rich organisation. The shortage in hard currency

supply has put pressure on the foreign exchange auction and last week the dollar slid against the U.S. dollar to clear at 5.56 Jamaican dollar to the U.S. dollar.

According to Davis, the pre-financing arrangement was done on the basis of shipments of alumina. "Anytime you fail to make a shipment the interest charge builds up."

The strike is also expected to affect production targets set for the year. Davis said the industry was expected to produce some 9 million tonnes in 1989 and 10.5 million tonnes in 1990. Last year the industry recorded 3,455.9 thousand tonnes of crude bauxite representing a 7.8 percent decline over the previous years figure. Alumina production also declined in 1988 by 6.1 percent to 1,514 thousand tonnes. Bauxite earnings last year were put at U.S.104.9 million dollars while alumina earnings reached U.S.307.2 million dollars.

Operations at Alcoa shut down on Saturday after talks on salary and fringe benefits betweent the company and the NWU [National Workers Union] broke down. Negotiations have been going on for seven months and last Wednesday, the union issued the company with a 72-hour strike notice which expired on Saturday morning. Several attempts to resolve the dispute have so far failed and a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday at the Ministry of Labour to try and settle the dispute.

Arnold Davis, managing director of Alcoa, was quoted by the daily GLEANER newspaper as saying that the company was losing about 2,000 tons in production or about Jamaica 2 million for each day there was no work.

The strike at Alcoa is being watched closely by officials at Alcan Jamaican Limited where salary negotiations are said to be in an "advanced stage." A meeting scheduled for July 27 between Alcan and the National Workers Union (NWU) which also represents Alcoa workers, is said to be critical.

Industry analysts say that if this meeting fails to reach an agreement it could trigger an industry-wide strike, especially if the Alcan workers decide to show their solidarity with their Alcoa counterparts. Each company negotiates separately with the union, but each agreement acts as a guideline for negotiations with other companies.

Managing director of Alcan, Dr Keith Panton, confirming that negotiations were in progress said that based on past experience, he expected that the company and the union will be able to work out "an amicable agreement which will be mutually acceptable to both of us."

The GLEANER quoted industry sources as saying that there was "talk on the streets" that workers at Alcan, Alpart, and Kaiser may come out on strike to show solidarity with their Alcoa colleagues.

Appointments Announced in Diplomatic Services
FL2507141089 Bridgetown CANA in English
2142 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 24, CANA—Jamaica's High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs Ellen Bogle, is being switched to the United Kingdom. Her appointment is one of a series of changes announced here for the diplomatic services.

Mrs Bogle, who is also non-resident ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean States, Guyana, and Suriname is expected to take up her new posting in September. She succeeds Herbert Walker, who has been appointed Jamaica's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Lloyd Barnett is Jamaica's new permanent representative to the United Nations and it's specialised agencies in Geneva. He replaces Norman Hill, who is returning to the home office.

Derrick Heaven has been appointed consul-general in New York, replacing Lorrell Bruce.

El Salvador

Cristiani Meets With Nicaraguan Contra Leaders

PA2507155289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Jul (AFP)—Representatives of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) today expressed to President Alfredo Cristiani their determination to continue their armed struggle in Nicaragua before and after the February elections if democracy is not restored in that country.

The delegation, comprised of six commanders from the various fronts of the U.S.-backed contra organization expressed that same position to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias last week. They stressed that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has not complied with the democratization agreements he signed with the other Central American presidents in February.

The contra leaders are currently touring Central America to state their position on the Nicaraguan situation to the area presidents in view of the upcoming regional summit scheduled to take place 5-7 August in Honduras. During that meeting, the presidents will discuss the demobilization of the Nicaraguan rebels, among other topics.

During a news conference following the meeting with Cristiani, Commander Israel Galeano, alias "Franklin," stressed their determination to "keep our military forces intact as guarantor of any agreement."

The contra leaders said that Cristiani promised to convey their views to the other presidents at the next summit.

The rebel commanders denied press reports that the contras have sold weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Cristiani Presents Land Titles to Peasants

PA2607044689 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 23

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani during ceremony to present land title deeds to peasants at the Arce Movie Theater in Sonsonate on 22 July]

[Text] Dear peasant friends:

From the very 1st day of our administration, we have pledged our full commitment to national programs and have said that "at no time and for no reason will we forget the many needy people in the country—that is, the noble and long-suffering peasants, who are the main victims of terrorist violence."

This ceremony reaffirms our government's commitment to continue agrarian reform.

We want you to realize the seriousness of our words through our deeds. This presentation of 8,000 permanent land title deeds to the beneficiaries of Decree 207—through the National Financial Institution for Agricultural Lands (FINATA)—reflects our objectives.

We have categorically said that we will not turn back the agrarian reform process. Quite to the contrary, we want to fully support it to guarantee that peasants in areas affected by the agrarian reform are free to choose the kind of property ownership that best suits their needs, in accordance with the great freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution and laws of the Republic.

Our government is determined to work hard to ensure that our brother peasants are indeed benefited by the agrarian reform and that they will not be used as a demagogical banner at the service of political ideology, as was the case until recently. We want peasants' welfare to be the objective of our agrarian reform; we want agrarian reform to develop within a legal, honest, and patriotic framework.

We are against the demagoguery of static paternalism, because we want peasants to determine their own fate, to truly participate in their production units' decisionmaking process, in the marketing of their products, and in the distribution of revenue.

It is neither fair nor correct, as has been the case in the past, to benefit office workers, who have never sweated in the fields under the agrarian reform, when you—the peasants—are now facing debts and are worse off than before you owned land.

Our government and you will gradually change this situation to ensure that you will enthusiastically work your land, knowing that the fruit of your labor will directly benefit your families. We are sure that with efficient organization, prompt credit, adequate technical assistance, and the hardworking legacy of the Salvadoran people, we will turn the agrarian reform into an opportunity for economic and social development, which will benefit all Salvadorans by promoting production and productivity.

Dear peasants:

We wish to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you that our government is determined to work with you. Through the relevant organizations, the government will implement programs to completely upgrade the Salvadoran peasants' conditions.

Through FINATA, we will continue to finance the acquisition of more land for distribution among thousands of peasant families.

Dear friends:

Our government is determined to achieve peace, because we are aware that the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist violence disturbs the calm and normal procedure of rural activities; we realize that we must end the violence so that we can all go back to work and bring about a national recovery. Peasants have suffered the most throughout the conflict unleashed by the terrorist Marxist-Leninist groups, and we believe that the time has come to seek the peace that we all want to restore social harmony, mutual respect, and fraternal love among all Salvadorans without exception.

On behalf of the government of the Republic, we have been particularly pleased to present these permanent land title deeds to the beneficiaries of Decree 207. We congratulate and invite you to continue working together to help the fatherland recover from the crisis and to build for our children and all Salvadorans a future of peace, justice, liberty, and progress.

President Cristiani Urges Increased Exports

PA2507125289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara on statement by President Alfredo Cristiani at the Corporation of Exporters of El Salvador, COEXPORT, award ceremony on 24 July]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani promised this afternoon that the procedures producers must now follow will be eased to promote exports. President Cristiani presided over the COEXPORT award ceremony and gave strong support for the country's export firms. He said that his administration will try to revitalize exports for the country's economic benefit.

[Begin Cristiani recording] [Words indistinct] the current gap between our exports and imports has led us into a state of dependency on foreign aid, which is founded on the will of friendly countries and not on our production capabilities. One of my administration's priorities is to strengthen our production of export products to enable us to take responsibility for our own development.

Aware that we need to face the challenge of rescuing El Salvador from its present crisis, the government will promote the establishment of a socioeconomic system that ensures individual rights, private property, and free market competition. This system will allow us to increase our small firms' as well as the medium and large firms' productivity [words indistinct] promptly. The system, on its part, will increase national production destined for foreign markets and will create more jobs. With increased exports, we will gradually eliminate our dependency on foreign countries. [end recording]

The president also thanked export firms for their patriotism when faced with adverse conditions over the past 10 years. He added that export activity is of the utmost importance for any country and that the promotion of exports requires a competitive effort on foreign markets, which is particularly difficult for a country in which imports are twice as high as exports.

Reserve Bank on New Foreign Exchange Policy

PA2607031089 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 71

[Text] Central Reserve Bank (BCR) President Roberto Orellana Milla announced that in view of the current foreign exchange crisis, the Monetary Board decided to establish a new foreign exchange policy, whose main objective is to eliminate the commercial balance of payment deficit in a medium term.

According to statements made by Orellana over a radio and television network last night, the new policy is intended to make the amount of exports equal to the amount of imports to reduce our dependence on foreign aid.

Orellana said that under the current foreign exchange system, most of the free market foreign exchange is not used to benefit the country, but instead is used to smuggle products into the country or to contribute to the flight of capital.

The previous administration's foreign exchange policy did not have the expected results. That policy created a crisis that is characterized by the following:

Exports went down to half the level of 10 years ago; it is expected that imports will exceed exports by over $500 million this year. That situation will worsen due to the drop in coffee prices;

The country has been able to maintain its current level of imports thanks to the money sent to Salvadorans by relatives abroad and to the aid of friendly nations, which has created a high degree of dependence on foreign aid;

The banks' reserves of dollars decreased by $100 million over the last 18 months, and the country has failed to pay $160 million of its foreign debt;

The lack of dollars in our banking system prevents us from importing the raw materials we need for production. Therefore, our national production could decrease, and the price of imported products could increase because of their scarcity.

Orellana said that the purpose of the new foreign exchange policy is to maintain the stability of the national currency, to improve the availability of foreign exchange to import necessary raw materials and finished products, to increase the amount of dollars available in the banking system, and to meet overdue obligations with foreign organizations in order to restore our country's access to new loans. The above objectives can only be attained through an exchange system that facilitates the incorporation of foreign exchange from the money sent to Salvadorans by relatives abroad into the banking

system and its use on the free market. In addition, the banking system must take advantage of the foreign commercial loans granted to Salvadoran businessmen.

In view of the above, the Monetary Board adopted the following measures:

The foreign exchange rate of 5 colons per dollar in the fixed exchange rate market will be maintained. This rate will be applied to coffee exports of the 1988-1989 coffee harvest. This rate will also apply to other traditional products exported prior to 25 June 1989 as well as to loans and the transfer of funds to the public sector.

Payments received in the country prior to 1 June 1989 for exports of products on the priority A list as of 31 May 1989 will be honored.

Bishop's Brother Arrested as ERP Member
PA2507180489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1724 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Armed Forces announced today that over the weekend Army troops detained Aristides Rosa Chavez, brother of the capital's auxiliary bishop, on the outskirts of San Salvador, on charges of being a guerrilla.

A military report reveals that Rosa Chavez was arrested by the National Police in (El Plan del Pito) in the northwestern part of San Salvador, on charges of being a member of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), one of the five guerrilla organizations operating in El Salvador.

Aristides, brother of Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, was sent to court on Monday for sentencing or release, the military source said.

The Salvadoran press today focuses on Rosa Chavez' arrest, and points out that as a guerrilla he worked at Radio Venceremos, the official organ of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Conservative newspaper LA PRENSA GRAFICA's report on Rosa Chavez' arrest points out "the silence" the Catholic Church hierarchy has maintained.

The same source comments that Aristides and other members of the bishop's family, who also seem to belong to the guerrillas, "are about to withdraw" from the FMLN.

The Salvadoran prelate has said nothing so far concerning his brother's arrest, or concerning accusatory remarks to the effect that other relatives belong to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Bishop Rosa Chavez and Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas have advocated a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador, and maintain that the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas should resume to end the war.

Army Seizes Arsenal Near San Salvador
PA2507220989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1914 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Jul (DPA)—The Salvadoran Army reported today that it has seized an arsenal in the northern outskirts of San Salvador. An Army source said that the discovery of this arsenal thwarts terrorist plans in San Salvador.

The arsenal was discovered at the Suchinango Farm, Nejapa Jurisdiction, approximately 18 km north of San Salvador. It was also reported that the militias who attack military positions in the metropolitan area are generally based at the Suchinango Farm.

The 1st Infantry Brigade displayed the arsenal, which included 20,543 cartridges of various calibers, 2 North Korean-made submachineguns, 42 cartridge clips for AK-47 rifles, and small arms. In addition, the Salvadoran Army confiscated approximately 5,000 fuses for explosives, fragmentation grenades, incendiary bombs, 200 sticks of TNT, and other war equipment.

Sources from the 1st Infantry Brigade reported that the brigade conducts permanent operations in the outskirts of San Salvador to reduce the number of attacks on military posts in the metropolitan area.

Four Foreigners Deported for Rebel Links
PA2507214089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1903 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Jul (DPA)—The Treasury Police reports that four foreigners, including a Brazilian woman, were deported from El Salvador for their connections with guerrilla activities.

The persons involved are: A French-Brazilian doctor identified as Nathan Kamliot; a Brazilian nurse, Breatriz Cola Prieto; Peruvian citizen Jose Francisco Bonilla; and U.S. citizen Jeffrey Milder Higgins Schooner.

According to Treasury Police Director Hector Heriberto Hernandez, the four were turned over to immigration authorities so that they, in turn, would hand the foreigners over to their consulates in San Salvador. They were released today.

The four were arrested in a house located south of the capital. It was reported that Kamliot worked for the San Salvador Archbishopric's Social Action Office, which helps war victims in ways not covered by public health services. He had previously worked for "Doctors Without Borders," a French organization that provides El Salvador with humanitarian aid.

The Treasury Police director gave no further details on the foreigners' work; he simply said that following an investigation, the decision was made to arrest them and turn them over to immigration authorities.

The Archbishopric's office for which Kamliot worked said that the arrests were arbitrary and that such arrests endanger the lives of foreigners who want to come and work in El Salvador.

Ungo Rejects Cristiani's Economic Measures

PA2507161789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Guillermo Manuel Ungo of the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] says that President Alfredo Cristiani's economic measures will increase the concentration of wealth and spread extreme poverty.

The leftist MNR secretary general said that the economic measures will increase inflation instead of solving the economic crisis, because they are designed to favor a small sector of businessmen and that the measures completely fail to address the need to increase workers' salaries. It is the workers who, in the long run, will bear the brunt of those measures.

* Study Says Threat of Food Shortage Increasing

32480172a San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 May 89 p 6

[Text] Ciudad Universitaria, 25 May (UESPRESS)—"A serious crisis is brewing in Salvadoran agriculture, one that may result in food shortages in the years ahead," warn members of the UES [University of El Salvador] School of Agronomy's Department of Rural Development.

While the main peasant organizations continue their unsuccessful demand for access to land and credit, winter continues to move in and work has not yet begun on the preparation of land that would be used to produce basic grain.

Thousands of peasants and cooperative members will remain idle since national banks refuse to approve loan applications, thus dooming the entire reformed sector economically. The situation has grown worse throughout the 10 years since the Agrarian Reform began, spokesmen from the School of Agronomy add.

Exclusion of the reformed sector is nothing new. What has happened is that it is now aggravated by the transfer of power and the prospect of actual cancellation of the Agrarian Reform by President Cristiani's administration.

By 1986, of the 271,000 hectares included in the total area covered by the Agrarian Reform, only 64,000 hectares, some 24 percent of the total, were receiving financing.

Land incorporated into the Agrarian Reform by Decree 207 or Phase II totaled 97,200 hectares, but only 32,800 hectares or 33 percent of the total received financing.

Despite the fact that cooperatives in the reformed sector receiving financing comprised a very low percentage, these few "privileged" cooperatives have fallen into a situation of chronic indebtedness amounting to some 2 billion colones, rendering the entire agrarian plan insolvent.

Referring to war, School of Agronomy officials said: "We cannot lose sight of the fact that the war has been a decisive factor in the Agrarian Reform disaster. Many peasants who should be involved in productive activity were inducted into the government army or are fighting for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

Over 50 percent of the national budget is being earmarked for the war or related activities. It can be said that the Agrarian Reform was doomed to failure from the very beginning because it is impossible for a small country such as ours, with few resources, to resolve the problem of the war and Agrarian Reform at the same time.

Given this dilemma, priority was granted to the war, while the Agrarian Reform was relegated to a secondary level. As already noted, financing has been inadequate, not only for fundamental measures, but also for other action that should be included in true agrarian reform (housing, education, health, and so on).

That is not the worst news, however. Some 10 years after the Agrarian Reform began and 9 years of war, no "happy ending" is in sight. Rather, the war is escalating and the Agrarian Reform seems doomed to total failure.

Referring to agricultural prospects under the Cristiani Administration, School of Agronomy spokesmen observed that "there have been enough statements by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leaders outlining the future of the Agrarian Reform. First of all, they said they would privatize foreign trade and give incentives to private banks to 'compete' with government institutions."

These two measures alone clearly indicate that the new government will favor exporters even more, both in financing as well as in marketing.

It was also stated that unprofitable cooperatives would be eliminated and others converted into "efficient enterprises." What ARENA spokesmen chose not to say is that total elimination of the Agrarian Reform will be their main objective.

How this will be done is still the subject of internal ARENA discussions. Some propose that land covered by the Agrarian Reform be turned over to individual owners, cooperatives broken up, and properties returned to the original owners by various means.

Another alternative would be to withdraw every type of financial and technical support from cooperative members, ruin them economically, and force them into the desperate choice of "voluntarily" turning the land over to those who can work it, in this case, the rich.

The few cooperatives that manage to escape chaos could be politically manipulated to support the ruling party and then included in the plan of "total war," arming cooperative members to continue the war in rural areas, Agronomy spokesmen said.

* Israeli Educational Support Aids Cooperatives

32480172b San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 May 89 p 3

[Article by Francisco Aragon]

[Text] With the aid of Israeli experts, the Federation of Loan Banks (Fedeccredito) has staged highly interesting intensive seminars during which much knowledge has been gained. The courses will run until June of this year and are part of El Salvador's technical cooperation program being carried out with the Israeli Government.

The seminars are an extension activity in which Salvadoran technicians have participated for Fedeccredito, an institution that is improving its services by the day with emphasis on our country's small and medium-size farmers and craftsmen.

Support in the form of technical assistance provided by Israeli advisers and technical personnel has been continuing and sustained. We must recognize that Israel is one of the countries that for years has demonstrated the most interest in holding seminars for private enterprise and the public agricultural sector. Its experts have at all times been willing to teach and transfer knowledge to Salvadorans. This dissemination of knowledge has extended to different areas of productive activity. The varied courses have had three major dimensions: promotion, organization, and training.

Fedeccredito president Oscar Raymundo Melgar officially opened a seminar a few days ago whose subject roused great interest. Since 15 May, the Israeli courses have been evaluated by participants. The latter believe they have achieved their objectives: to expand knowledge and apply it in practice.

Instructors Betzalel Feldman, Yitzhak Zilber, and David Erel head up the following courses: the planning of peasant cooperative settlements; cooperatives, the cooperative movement, and industrialization; farm organization and the analysis of profitability; and rationally chosen and easily understood approaches to work. The extension courses help small and medium-size farmers and manufacturers who are promoting self-management and cooperative organization in an attempt to improve performance. At day's end, they hope to look at output and realize that by joining together, they will produce more.

Cooperative training is not to be considered as a separate sector of development. "Rather, it must be aimed at all rural population groups based on their needs. The whole range of available methods must be used."

The foregoing is merely a summary idea of what, in simple terms, integrated work and cooperatives can be.

Courses have been characterized by a desire to learn and to generate an exchange of ideas between participants in each class. Knowledge has been put to immediate use, based on the actual situation and an urgent need to implement proposals and achieve concrete results. This is particularly true because projects relate to the production of food, other items, and consumer goods covered by the Rural Credit System's various lines of credit.

We must repeat that the Israeli advisers and Fedeccredito President Oscar Raymundo Melgar have recognized the receptiveness of participants. The latter total 79 managers of Credit Banks and technicians who are divided into two groups (two courses) and whose work will continue until 23 June.

Honduras

Azcona on Human Rights, Regional Summits

PA2507141689 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by Gustavo R. Rubi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rubi] Mr President, what can you tell us about the ruling by the Inter-American Human Rights Court [Corte Inter-Americana de Derchos Humanos] [concerning the missing Honduran citizens Saul Godinez and Angel Manfredo Velasquez]?

[Azcona] I was in the [word indistinct] when the court found that the government and the relatives had not reached agreement about payment of fair compensation for the alleged death of these people, and that they were going to [words indistinct].

[Rubi] Is it true that after learning of the ruling, Honduras could deny jurisdiction by the court?

[Azcona] I believe—and this has to be taken very much into account indeed—that Honduras is one of the very few countries which have adhered to, or signed... [changes thought] that submit to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court without any reservations. We think this is not quite fair. Why are Nicaragua and Cuba not subject to it? Why are other countries not subject to it? [Words indistinct] Therefore, I do not think this is equitable. I think that all member countries of the inter-American system should be subject to the court's jurisdiction, because otherwise it would be discriminatory.

[Rubi] Should this possibility not be discarded?

[Azcona] We would have to study the pros and cons because there are no pending cases right now. This way no one can say that we are withdrawing because there are cases pending at the court.

[Rubi] What mechanism will be used?

[Azcona] The mechanism will... [changes thought] We do not know yet because, as I told you, the over 20 Hondurans who were held in Nicaraguan jails for 10 years could appeal to the court because Nicaragua is not under its jurisdiction. It has not submitted to the court's jurisdiction. This is not fair to those men who were held there for 10 years. Some of them came out with tuberculosis and others with incurable diseases. Yet, they could not file a complaint against Nicaragua because Nicaragua is not subject to the court's jurisdiction. Furthermore, there are countries that are not subject to the inter-American court's jurisdiction, yet have appointed judges to it. I think this is quite absurd, regardless of the rulings the court has issued.

[Rubi] Where will you get the funds to pay the indemnity?

[Azcona] The matter will have to go to the National Congress, and the Congress will have to make provisions. My budget does not include funds for this. The executive branch will follow the formalities.

[Rubi] Are you going to ask Nicaragua to withdraw the suit [at the International Court of Justice, ICJ] during the summit scheduled for next month?

[Azcona] We will see what we can discuss at the summit. I think this matter of the suit is being used for leverage because, in the final analysis, the departure of the contras is more to the advantage of Honduras than anyone else. As for the rest, I do not think any of them are interested.

[Rubi] The summits have not been resounding successes. Do you think this one will be an exception?

[Azcona] I think some results have been obtained. I think in Nicaragua there would not be any talk of advancing the elections, the newspaper LA PRENSA would not exist, and there would be no opposition had it not been for the summits. This is unquestionable. Also I do not think a cease-fire would have been established between the contras and the Sandinist government had it not been for the summits. I think that the those who have gained the most from them are the Nicaraguans, because, such as it is, they have peace and they will have to open the door to democracy. They [the government] did not want democracy but, in the final analysis, this will be to their benefit because they cannot maintain the situation there any longer.

[Rubi] What about the plan to demobilize the contras?

[Azcona] The plan is ready. All it needs is the finishing touches, and we are going to present it at the National Security Council. After this is done, we are going to send our foreign minister to talk with the other presidents and then submit the plan for approval at the summit.

[Rubi] Mr President, do you think Ortega can win the Nicaraguan elections?

[Azcona] I would not venture to predict who will win the elections. I think that with so many Nicaraguans in exile, much of the opposition that could be in Nicaragua is outside it. This is a fact, but who knows? If completely clean and honest elections are held... [changes thought] well, people do not like the governments that restrict their freedoms. Just look at what happened in Hungary, where the ruling Communist Party lost the elections.

[Rubi] What is your position concerning the strike at SEPCAMAT [Union of Public Employees for Highway, Airport, and Terminals Maintenance]?

[Azcona] SEPCAMAT's strike is simply reckless, because the increases that had been agreed to in a famous agreement are being made. I think what has happened is that these people have a leadership problem. The leaders want to stay, no matter what. Also, in a way, they are trying to take advantage of the situation to pressure for unrealistic salary increases.

[Rubi] Union members assert that they will not leave the premises even if you send in the police?

[Azcona] I do not think this strike has much support. What we are going to do is order the gates opened, and anyone wishing to report for work can do so. The majority of workers will want to report for work because they are waiting to receive their monthly paychecks. I will not pay salaries to the strikers. Also, the gates are being guarded by one or two people. When they are opened, anyone who wishes to work can do so, and those not working will be subject to the civil service law.

Sandinist Sailors Defect on Fishing Boat

PA2507152389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1434 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Three members of a Sandinist Navy security squad have defected to Honduras aboard a fishing boat that had been seized in Honduran waters some hours before, according to official reports released in Tegucigalpa today.

The defectors are Yelson Rail Briceno Munoz, Teodoro del Carmen Molina, and Mario Mercedes Alvarez Ortega. They had been assigned by their superiors to guard the Honduran fishing boat, which had been taken to a secure port in Nicaragua.

The Honduran boat seized by the Sandinist defectors was the "Captain Teed." Its captain, Manuel Amador Espinoza, reported that he had been fishing in Honduran waters when two fishing boats flying the Honduran flag approached him. To his surprise, the boats were crewed by Nicaraguan Navy troops, and his boat was seized.

The Honduran fishing boats armed by the Sandinists are the "Captain Junior" and the "Sadi Jai." According to the Honduran Navy, the boats were seized a few months ago by the Nicaragua Navy in Honduran waters.

Captain Amador Espinoza added that one of the boats escorting his boat to Nicaragua experienced trouble while on the high seas and that the second boat went to its rescue. The Sandinist guards were then ordered to take the captured boat to Bluefields. However, the guards asked them to head for Honduras so they could request political asylum.

The Sandinist defectors are being held by the Honduran Navy.

Police Display Weapons, 'Subversive' Literature

PA2607030289 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 33

[Text] San Pedro Sula—The police yesterday presented a total of 67 pistols, 6 22-caliber rifles, and 2 Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles seized in recent operations in Santa Barbara, Cortes, and Yoro Departments, which come under the jurisdiction of the 2d Region Command of the Public Security Forces [FUSEP].

During joint operations by FUSEP and the National Army, over 20 lbs of high-quality (red point) marijuana from La Ceiba, Atlantida Department, was also seized.

FUSEP 2d Region Commander Lieutenant Colonel Diomedes Garcia Flores displayed between 250 and 300 samples of Marxist-Leninist literature, which is considered "subversive" material since it undermines the stability of democratic institutions.

Garcia Flores said that these books, which are freely sold at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and at almost all book stores in the country, came from Cuba, the USSR, and Nicaragua and were sent to a person identified as "MW Valladares."

Garcia Flores added that the 2d Region Command had inspected vehicles and checked bus passengers in that area and had detained 355 persons, of which 13 had been sent to the Immigration Office for further investigation.

Garcia Flores explained that those detained remained in preventive custody for 2 to 6 hours, and their relatives were allowed to bring personal documents to prove nationality and identity.

With regard to the seized weapons, Garcia Flores said that the owners of the weapons must present three things to get their weapons back: the appropriate registration papers, a permit to bear firearms, and proof of purchase.

According to the FUSEP 2d Region commander, many of the books seized have "suggestive" titles, such as: "Scientific Communism," "Manual of Marxist Philosophy," "Guerrilla Warfare," "Fidel and Religion," "Manual of Marxist-Leninist Philosophy," "Marxists of America," "Soviet Military Magazine," and "Socialism, Theory, and Practice."

In the opinion of the police chief, there are still bad citizens in Honduras who bring this type of literature to "distort the minds" of our youth and sometimes even more serious people. "They are trying to sow an ideology that is not our ideology. Ours is a democratic ideology that we must fight to defend."

Garcia Flores feels that these types of books should not be available to common citizens, because they interpret them differently. These can only be read by "professionals and more serious people for their general knowledge."

Lt Col Garcia Flores pointed out that "we should have this literature available because we must first get to know the enemy if we want to defeat him. We should study the literature so we can fight the enemy with his own ideas."

Nicaragua

Ortega on Absence of World Leaders at Festivities

PA2507192289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—President Daniel Ortega today justified the absence of heads of state or government during events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution by saying that many did not attend because of U.S. pressure.

On 19 July Nicaragua celebrated the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist revolution with several events that lasted several days and which were not attended by heads of state or government.

"Some statesmen did not come to Managua because the U.S. pressure made it difficult for them to participate. Others were not able to attend because the celebrations coincided with the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution," Ortega added.

The Nicaraguan president denied the opposition paper LA PRENSA's report that only 65,000 persons had attended the 19 July rally and added that, according to reports filed by foreign correspondents accredited to Managua, between 250,000 and 300,000 people were present.

"The events to mark the 10th anniversary were a success. We were only able to mobilize our supporters in Managua because we did not have the means to mobilize our supporters from other departments," Ortega stressed during a news conference held today.

"Taking into consideration that the people from Managua are the most affected by the economic adjustment plan and the rightist propaganda, the fact that so many people attended to express their support for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] represents success," Ortega added.

Ortega announced that the national dialogue with the 21 opposition parties in Nicaragua would be held in early August.

"I will meet with all the opposition parties before attending the Central American presidential summit that will be held in Honduras on 5-7 August," the Sandinist leader said.

"I will explain (to the opposition) the progress of the Central American peace plan and the need for all the political forces to support it," Ortega added.

Ortega added that he will hear proposals from the opposition on amendments to the Electoral and Media Laws.

Concerning the demobilization of contras currently stationed in Honduras, Ortega said that this will be a "priority subject" at the Central American presidential summit in Honduras.

"A proposal for the demobilization of the contras has already been approved by area foreign ministers at their meetings in Guatemala and Costa Rica. The proposal includes various mechanisms for their relocation in Nicaragua or in other countries; however, there is lack of political willingness to approve it," Ortega stressed.

On Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's proposal calling for a simultaneous demobilization of the contras and FMLN members, Ortega said that the contra demobilization could be used as an example that could be applied to other groups in the future.

"The difference between the contras and the FMLN is that the latter is in El Salvador, depends on the people, is maintained by the people, and moves and breathes through the people. Therefore, the people must make that decision," Ortega stressed.

Asked if there was any connection between Nicaragua and the Cuban drug trafficking activities that culminated with the execution of four Cuban Armed Forces officers, Ortega said that he talked by phone with Fidel Castro, who told him that no Sandinist officers were involved in the case.

"What the United States should do is to follow Cuba's example; it should judge and condemn top U.S. Government officials who used Costa Rica to create a drug trafficking network, as reported by the Costa Rican Congress," Ortega stressed.

Regarding reports that the Nicaraguan Government has sent weapons to the Panamanian Government, Ortega said that his country has a right as a sovereign state to send aid to other sovereign states if they face the threat of military invasion.

"I am sure that if the United States invades Panama, all Panamanian political forces will fight to defend their sovereignty, including the opposition, and we have given aid to the people so that they can defend themselves," Ortega concluded.

Wheelock Departs for Cuba for 26 Jul Festivities

PA2507141889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1344 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jul (DPA)—Agriculture Minister Jaime Wheelock Roman left for Cuba today, leading an official delegation to attend ceremonies to commemorate 26 July, a date of great political importance to the socialist nation.

A government communique indicated that Wheelock, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], is accompanied by Rene Vivas, vice minister of the Interior; Colonel Alvaro Baltodano, member of the General Staff of the Sandinist People's Army; and Vanessa Castro, an FSLN official.

FMLN Greets Sandinist Revolution Anniversary

PA2507195989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jul 89 p 12

["Text" of message from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command on the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution]

[Text] Comrades of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]:

On behalf of our people, and the FMLN fighters and activists, please accept warm and revolutionary greetings from your brothers on the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution.

Along with the indomitable Salvadoran people, we share the happiness of the heroic Nicaraguan people and their vanguard, the FSLN, in celebrating 10 years of unquestioned revolutionary successes, definitely consolidating the people's power; 10 years of victories against the blows of U.S. imperialism, clearing the road to a new society and a new tomorrow for people who are currently behind the times, exploited, and oppressed.

This 10th anniversary is an appropriate occasion to review some of the lessons derived from the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution.

The victory of the Sandinist people's revolution, along with the struggle waged by the people of El Salvador and Guatemala, moved toward Central America the center of the revolution on the American continent, thus confirming the truth that the revolution is and will continue to be a historical need, a law for social development. Now, 10 years after the revolution's victory, it has been proven that, despite the enormous obstacles artificially created by the blockade and mercenary war, the problems of backwardness and poverty cannot be solved without carrying out significant structural changes with the active participation of the people's majority—this is only possible through a revolution.

The Sandinist people's revolution has clearly reasserted that there can be no development without self-determination, and that changes are not possible without breaking dependence on U.S. imperialism and rescuing the national identity. It has also taught us that the struggle for self-determination and national sovereignty is permanent, even after the people achieve power, and the struggle must be firmly waged without respite.

We are convinced that the Sandinist people's revolution has reasserted the historical universal experience that the people's active participation—fighting, working, and producing for themselves—represents the strongest wall against aggression and an efficient lever toward progress. Nicaragua has proven throughout these 10 years that people who are aware of their historical role in the construction and defense of their future become invincible and can surmount the worst of obstacles.

The Sandinist people's revolution inaugurated the era of revolutions which, without losing their identity and course, are capable of joining the process of significant changes that are taking place in our world today. The FSLN and the revolutionary government have given us wise lessons on how a diplomatic, political, and military struggle can and must be combined to make this joining possible and guarantee—amidst the complexities of a modern world that is interdependent and full of contradictions and risks—progress toward a new society the structure of which will be based on social justice, democracy, and development.

We are convinced that the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution induced the renaissance of Latin Americanism and favored the democratic changes that have been taking place in many Latin American countries through the people's struggle.

These lessons are extremely important for the people of Latin America and all the Third World.

We have learned from all this, and we will continue to learn; the FSLN's unity and cohesion, capacity for self-criticism, permanent willingness to renew its ideas, and inseparable actions with the people represent the virtues of a vanguard that we have assumed.

The struggles waged by the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador are part of the same revolutionary process. The two peoples have inflicted severe defeats on U.S. imperialism and, consequently, they enjoy the admiration and solidarity of all the people of the world.

The struggle in our country approaches a decisive moment because the Salvadoran people, led by the FMLN, caused the failure of the imperialist strategy through the so-called "Low Intensity Conflicts"—in the counterinsurgency variable—while the Sandinist people defeated the same war strategy in Nicaragua—in the rebel counterinsurgency variable.

The possibilities of stopping the revolution in El Salvador are quickly being exhausted. Following the defeat of the political "center" led by Jose Napoleon Duarte and the oligarchs' return to power, the latter have steadfastly tried to impose a clearly fascist scheme of domination. This has resulted in an overall rejection of the people and the reorganization of the broadest social and political forces to prevent it. This is a symptom that the national situation is advancing toward a decisive struggle.

We are sure that our struggle will continue to enjoy the people's active solidarity throughout the world, particularly Sandino's heroic people.

Long live the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution!

Long live the heroes and martyrs of the Sandinist people's revolution and their staunch defense!

Long live the revolutionary people of Nicaragua!

Long live the international solidarity with the people!

Long live the FSLN!

Revolution or death, we will win!

For the FMLN General Command: Commander Roberto Roca, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Jorge Shafik Handal

El Salvador, 19 July 1989

Opposition on Ortega's Failure To Hold Dialogue

PA2507131989 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Interview with Liberal Party leader and National Opposition Union, UNO, spokesman Jaime Bonilla, by unidentified reporter on 24 July in Managua—recorded]

[Text] [Bonilla] The Wednesday meeting is to analyze the legal status of UNO, that is, (?to register) now at the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], or to wait a little longer. We are also going to analyze the effects of the time factor concerning official registration at the CSE. These are issues we will be discussing on Wednesday. We will also be discussing the measures UNO will adopt to prepare lists of those who will run for posts in the National Assembly and other offices.

[Reporter] When will the UNO government program be ready? We understand you were discussing [words indistinct] the 'blue and white plan?' How is that going?

[Bonilla] It is coming along fine. Tomorrow, during the regular UNO meeting, we will receive the first proposal to be presented by the special commission. The special commission has been working very hard over the past few weeks and has already promised UNO—because UNO has been urging them to do so—to present the results by Tuesday afternoon. Thus, we expect to have the first proposal by tomorrow. Then, we plan to have an in-depth debate on the proposal drafted by the special commission appointed by UNO. We expect that each party will make some observations on how to improve, expand, and clarify the commitments to the Nicaraguan people. It must be clear that the UNO government program should be, according to our criteria, a nonpartisan program with a high national content that seeks to solve the people's problems. The government program should also be nonmilitaristic because militarism has lead us to the great conflicts we now have. Moreover, militarism has lead us to the grave economic situation Nicaragua faces. The government program should have a high democratic content.

[Reporter] When do you think UNO will begin to discuss the nomination of its sole candidate?

[Bonilla] I expect that after the 1st week of August we will be discussing the nomination of the sole candidates to the Presidency and the Vice Presidency, and to parliament. Moreover, concerning parliament, this will be discussed at the Wednesday meeting because it is a rather annoying and difficult task to share equally the number of posts for each political organization that comprises UNO.

Another currently very sensitive issue that will be discussed at the Wednesday meeting is the issue of prosecutors [fiscales], in other words, the appointment of prosecutors to the CSE, which we must carry out by the end August. We are currently working on this. The UNO electoral commission will present a proposal to carry out, at national level, the process of assemblying names for the principal and deputy prosecutors, in addition, the names of people UNO will propose should be at the vote counting boards. This is essential work that should be accomplished in August and during the days that remain of July to have a process in which the opposition truly participates. The key issue is the political and electoral guarantees for improving, or rather reinstating, citizen confidence in the electoral process, which still does not exist because we are awaiting President Ortega's call for dialogue. Ortega, with a very dilatory attitude, still has not called for the dialogue, although he recently promised the Costa Rican president he would hold a dialogue as soon as he returned to Nicaragua, something Ortega has not yet done. The date 19 July has passed, and he did not do it, which is even more of a mockery of the Central American agreements and the Costa Rican president.

Southern Opposition Bloc Expels 2 Members

PA2507221889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1747 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] San Jose, 25 July (DPA)—The Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS) has announced the expulsion of Donaldo Castillo and Leon Nunez from that organization.

The BOS established offices in San Jose, Costa Rica, a few years ago. Its leaders will soon move to Managua to participate in the Nicaraguan political activities related to the 1990 elections.

Carlos Siles and Frank Fuentes will replace expelled members Castillo and Nunez. The BOS leaders announced: "We will join the Nicaraguan Social Democratic Party in Managua."

Panama

Londono Comments on OAS Mediation Role

PA2507215589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1949 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jul (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes today said the OAS "cannot and should not be an electoral tribunal for Panama."

Londono told Colombian radio stations that the OAS "is convinced it cannot become an electoral tribunal or say who the president-elect is, let alone what kind of government should exist" in Panama.

Londono has returned from Washington, where he presided over an OAS foreign ministers meeting last week.

The Colombian foreign minister, who presided over the two OAS meetings that analyzed the Panamanian situation after the 7 May elections were annulled, pointed out that the OAS "is making efforts to establish full representative democracy in Panama."

For this purpose, the OAS designated three foreign ministers (from Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago) "to act as special envoys whose fundamental purpose is to achieve an understanding between the sides involved in the conflict," Londono said.

He added that the OAS at no time intended "to suggest or assume positions as if it were a Panamanian citizen."

The Colombian minister said that on 1 September "a new process should begin in the Panamanian territory, according to the OAS resolution. It is not up to the OAS, however, to determine the government system" to be established in this country.

Sieiro Supports Continuation of National Dialogue
PA2607002689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Interview with Ramon Sieiro, Labor Party secretary general and former vice presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition, by unidentified reporter; no date or place given—recorded]

[Text] [Sieiro] We have a clear idea of how the next government should be formed. The opposition and the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] should participate in the next government, which should be installed on 1 September when the constitutional mandate of the current executive and legislative branches ends.

We have been discussing plans to form the next government for quite a while. Our party [Panamanian Labor Party, PALA] has been following the development of those plans closely both during internal COLINA discussions and during our meetings with the OAS mission. Our party, in fact, presented those plans to the OAS mission on behalf of COLINA. The document we presented served as a basis for the report the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago presented to the OAS. Just as the most recent COLINA plan stated, the OAS said that first, there must be a transition government in Panama, and then new elections should be held.

[Reporter] In view of the most recent OAS meeting and the return to Panama of the opposition's envoy to the meeting in Washington, it is expected that the dialogue will be interrupted, because the opposition will not agree—as it has stated already—to be part of any government junta. What are PALA's expectations in view of this situation?

[Sieiro] First of all, we are departing from one premise. During the meetings with the OAS, the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] parties have always been very respectful of the OAS resolution. In fact, during the 2 days of the tripartite dialogue with the OAS, the ADOC parties read the OAS resolution no less than six times. I believe, therefore, that the ADOC parties respect the OAS very much. I believe the ADOC should continue the dialogue. It would be a great error not to continue the dialogue, because we all have a responsibility to fulfill before the Panamanian people.

PAPO Leader Opposes OAS Delegation Work
PA2507150289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The PAPO [People's Action Party] leadership rejected and condemned the OAS resolution because, they say, the international organization is no longer neutral on the situation in Panama. In a communique, PAPO President Carlos Ivan Zuniga and top party leaders asked the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] presidential ticket not to continue to participate in the OAS-sponsored negotiations. The communique also called all ADOC forces to struggle for a people's democratization program and to reject the foreign intervention that has increasingly harmed the Panamanian people's national identity.

[Begin Zuniga recording] The OAS delegation has failed resoundingly because it has not taken into account the will of the majority of the people, but has instead speculated on what the people want. I suggest that the OAS delegation withdraw from the dialogue being held between ADOC and the government representatives. We have a problem, however. We are at a masquerade ball, so to speak. The government is not being sincere. The government refuses to relinquish power and is marking time to impose solutions that best fit the interests of the ruling forces in the country, the government. All of the alternatives presented by the OAS delegation support the government. So it is not the opposition that has failed, but the OAS delegation. It is the OAS that has shown it lacks the impartial mechanism to resolve problems that have to do with the government.

It is the OAS delegation that is discussing General Manuel Antonio Noriega's leaving his post, while no one in Panama believes this is feasible. No one believes in this possibility. This is why we are saying it is necessary to create an internal people's movement. In other words, the people should continue to be the protagonists in the Panamanian political problem, the same people that were the protagonists in the 7 May elections and are proud of the results. The people should continue to be the protagonists. All negotiations should be transparent. The dialogue should be held without any naivete so that the people are not disappointed.

We do not understand Panama's current politics to be a way to reach a compromise by ignoring the people's will already expressed. PAPO thinks the U.S. intervention and the remarks by the U.S. generals are truly helping the Panamanian Government. We do not believe the story that this intervention is intended to overthrow the government. Instead, they are supplying the current

government with a pretext to pose as the victime before the world. This has in effect shored up the Panamanian Government's posture throughout the world. [end recording]

PDC Leader Comments on Power Transfer

PA2607010289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Statement by Dr Carlos Arellano Lennox, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I have just returned from a mission to South America. I was there when the OAS resolution—rather, the OAS declaration—was issued. I can inform the Panamanian people that the impression in the countries I visited is that the section of the OAS resolution pertaining to the transfer of power means that those currently in office must relinquish power immediately, not transfer power to another administration. Note that we are talking about two very different things, because this government has been transferred several times internally among those in power.

In South America, it is believed that real power resides with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and General Manuel Noriega. People there understand that the transfer of power means an end to Gen Noriega's power to make political decisions for this country. That is their interpretation.

Therefore, they hope that by 1 September, Gen Noriega will no longer be the FDP commander in chief and that power will have been transferred to those who should rightfully have it.

Ritter Shows Documentary on U.S. Army Maneuvers

PA2607033589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2345 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today showed foreign diplomats a documentary on U.S. military maneuvers conducted in Panama City over the weekend. The meeting was called by Ritter, who accused the U.S. Armed Forces of violating the Panama Canal treaties and international law.

UN and OAS representatives also attended the meeting. Ambassadors from almost every government—except the U.S. Government—were present at the meeting. Ritter said that the Panamanian people are dismayed with these maneuvers, particularly because they occur as Omar Torrijos week is being celebrated in this capital.

FDP on Maneuvers

PA2507182489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Jorge Mombeliard]

[Text] Heavily armed U.S. soldiers carried out military maneuvers yesterday in the Madden Lake area of Chilibre, with the obvious intention of maintaining a climate of alarm and uncertainty among Panamanians, as such maneuvers were not coordinated through the Combined Defense Board.

Violation of Treaties

An officer of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] informed CRITICA of the maneuvers, stating that they constitute a violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties as the U.S. counterpart failed to follow the procedures specified in such cases.

No FDP Escort

The FDP officer noted that the U.S. convoys were supposed to have the regular FDP escort, but since there was no coordination with the Defense Board, things were done arbitrarily.

The source said that although U.S. troops were in a "pink" zone, there was always the possibility that the troops could move to other populated areas, as they have done in the past, with the intention of causing panic among Panamanians.

They Arrived in Helicopters

U.S. troops arrived in UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopters, while Colonel Peary and U.S. Army Majors Rivera and Scolen closely watched the deployment exercises, it was reported.

Dignity Battalions Protest

PA2607031689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mariela Munoz]

[Text] In a peaceful and patriotic manner, Dignity Battalion units protested the new aggression by the Yankees, who deployed war equipment in the Gamboa area.

"A single flag, a single territory," "Yankee animals," "They sure as hell will leave," were the main slogans shouted by the Dignity Battalions at the uniformed U.S. Southern Command soldiers stationed in Panama, who early in the morning traveled from Fort Clayton to the military coordination area in Gamboa.

Warmongering Southern Command troops with war equipment, such as armored personnel carriers, Cobra helicopters, and combat aircraft, were deployed in Gamboa in a new violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Once again the military carried out their famous "war maneuvers," without the required authorization of the Combined Board and the COGECODESE [General Command of the Defense and Security Commission], as required by the 1977 treaties.

This demonstrates the defiant and arrogant way U.S. soldiers, led by the paranoid [U.S. Brigadier General] Marc Cisneros, want to put an end to the peace and tranquillity of a country that does not want war but peace.

'Significant Increase' in Government Revenues

PA2607040089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 89

["Statement" by Ricardo Levy, director of the General Revenues Office of the Finance and Treasury Ministry; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] There has been a significant increase in government revenues, although this increase does not include areas affected by the aggression—more specifically, areas such as the payment of payroll income taxes or income taxes paid by corporations.

There obviously has been no increase in revenues in areas such as the canal annuity, because the annuity is not being paid at all. In this area there has obviously been a decline in revenue collection compared to 1988 figures since the canal annuity was paid in January, February, and March 1988.

We honestly and sincerely state that revenue collection is increasing, especially in terms of indirect taxes. Our overall figures show there are clear signs of a revitalization of the national economy and a recovery in the industrial and commercial sectors.

Altamirano Answers Maritime Chamber Communique

PA2507230589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p A-5

[Letter from Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, legislator and government designate for the position of Panama Canal administrator, to Edmond M. Watchtel, president of the Maritime Chamber of Panama—no date given]

[Text] Mr Edmond M. Watchtel

President of the Maritime Chamber of Panama

Mr Watchtel:

I read your communique, which was published with my authorization in the Sunday 23 July edition of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, with great interest. In it you raised many questions regarding the designation of a new Panama Canal Commission [PCC] administrator. Because of the importance attributed to the organization you head, I find it necessary to respond to that communique.

I have decided to publish the communique again, this time in a more prominent manner, so that the Panamanian people can examine it more fully. The document contains a series of statements regarding the designation of the administrator that, in my opinion, are hasty and entirely speculative. The statements you made regarding the nervousness that you claim exists within the international maritime industry over the Panama Canal's future—regarding its stability, efficiency, and especially the procedures used to designate the administrator who will take office on 1 January 1990—are totally unfounded. They are based upon an unjustified prejudice regarding the possible politicization of the interoceanic waterway's operations. Your fear and concerns could, perhaps, be based upon my proven and undeniable political service to the country.

Nevertheless, I would suggest that you take another look at my actions as minister of state and director of an autonomous institution. You may request recommendations from U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) officials, who worked closely with the Housing Ministry when I was head of that ministry. I will repeat the public statement I made upon being recommended as PCC administrator: I promised to separate the Panama Canal's administration from national political interests. I intend to keep this promise.

I am convinced that this is the only way the Panama Canal can offer the world the service it pledged to give and provide the Panamanian people with the corresponding economic benefits. These are the goals that our past generations and our youths have fought for and failure to meet them would be equal to a betrayal of our demands and principles.

I cannot find in your communique a valid reason for doubts regarding the Panama Canal's future. My being an active politician will not hinder my ability to direct the canal's operation in an efficient and stable manner.

For example, your organization said nothing when Panama recommended Fernando Manfredo as deputy PCC administrator. Manfredo and I belong to the same political party. He and I have held top public administration posts, and no one can deny his success as deputy canal administrator. All of us are politicians to some extent, but we are also competent professionals able to deal with a task as far-reaching as handling Panama Canal operations without indulging in politics.

Surely you are aware that up until the year 2000 there will be a board of directors on which the Americans will have a majority. You must also be aware of the current existence of a chief engineer authorized by Law 96-70, which violates the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. In both instances, Americans will exert great control over the Panama Canal's operations, something which constitutes a frontal attack on the Panamanian administrator's abilities. I cannot understand your objection to the procedures used to recommend the new administrator. Nothing could be more sensible and democratic than to put a position of this type up for free election by an entire assembly, as was the case in the election of the new administrator.

I must not end this statement without first reiterating my unyielding decision to completely separate the administration of the Panama Canal from the country's political ups and downs. When the year 2,000 arrives—I am sure—I will present an administration free of those political doubts and enriched by the Panamanian people's ability to manage the most difficult tasks.

To the President of the Maritime Chamber of Panama with my highest regards,

Honorable Legislator Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque

Columnist Warns of Cisneros Provocations

PA2507125489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Jul 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "Provoking an Incident"]

[Text] If one carefully observes the warmongering activities conducted by Gen Marc Cisneros in Panama, one would realize that he is seeking to provoke an incident that could give him the opportunity to mercilessly destroy Panama and its people.

He is employing the same tactics used by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson and his advisers to provoke what became known as "the Gulf of Tonkin incident," which was the president's pretext to issue the "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution" in August 1964, a preamble to the Vietnam War.

Cisneros wants to provoke such an incident in Panama at all costs. That is why there has been an increase in military provocations; soldiers have become more arrogant; large quantities of weapons have been displayed; and statements have become more bitter.

If Cisneros, a psychopath, had belonged to the Adolf Hitler generation, he would have been a valuable "Stabdar Fuhrer" [as published] of the Nazi SS.

Cisneros is conceited like Goering, a liar like Goebbels, and a pervert like Himmler. He has created in his distorted imagination an image of Panama—a combination of Poland and Russia—that must be mercilessly destroyed.

As can be seen, he does not rest until achieving his objective. He feels he has sufficient suppport from Washington to go over the head his immediate commander, whom he has had removed from the Southern Command.

Panamanians must be prepared for the worst, because Cisneros is not about to accept any solution, other than destruction, death, desolation, and misery, to the problem he has created in his own imagination.

In addition, Cisneros is using Panama as a testing ground for tactics that will later be implemented throughout Latin America. Cisneros blindly believes in "manifest destiny" and that the United States should absorb all the Latin American countries so that only one flag can be flown in this continent—the U.S. flag.

Events of this past weekend have alarmed residents of this city, founded by Pedrarias [Davila]. This is a peaceful, confident, and happy city, which is now threatened by this maniac, who believes he should follow in the footsteps of the pirate Henry Morgan and destroy it once again, this time erasing it from the face of the earth, because Cisneros has weapons at his disposal that were never dreamed of by any English pirate or his hordes.

As I said before, the events of this past weekend have alarmed the residents of this city and its vicinity. A diabolical general, suffering from a Vietnam War-defeat complex, dreams of becoming immortal by promoting a bloodbath in Panama. The danger is truly imminent because he can himself stage a Gulf of Tonkin incident in Panama and then unleash the fury of hell.

Columnist Denounces Opposition Position

PA2607040389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 4

[From the Mario Augusto Rodriguez column: "External Topics"]

[Text]

1. Reaction

In its first public reaction to the proposals made by the government sector (the government itself, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and COLINA [National Liberation Coalition]), the opposition said the topics brought up for discussion "are of an external nature and bear no relationship" to the problem at hand, the internal government structure. However, the government sector has pointed out many times that the aggressive foreign intervention not only provoked the political, social, and

economic instability that the Panamanian community has been suffering for years, but caused the deterioration of what should have been a normal electoral process and hampered the elections, distorting the free and democratic exercise of citizens' rights. It has been argued both here and abroad that a people economically battered, militarily threatened, and harassed by disinformation cannot function normally as democracy demands because the people's self-determination is being pressured, curtailed, and harmed.

2. Consideration

The opposition spokesmen added that the problem of the U.S. pressure would be "automatically" resolved "the moment" their government—which they believe was elected by the majority—assumes the Presidency. They also said that, conversely, the continuation of the current regime or the installation of any other government other than the one that President Bush has already designated as the winner would involve not only the continuation of the economic, political, and media aggression, but a possible military intervention, which the U.S. Government "has not dismissed."

It can be inferred from this that the opposition does not regard the dialogue as a means to reach an agreement but as an instrument to talk their counterparts into accepting their proposals. According to the opposition, there is no alternative other than facing an armed aggression by the world's biggest and most powerful country.

3. Constitution

Another of the arguments advanced by the opposition spokesmen against the government sector is based on the Constitution. They argue that, according to Paragraph 9 of Article 179 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the president of the Republic, assisted by the appropriate minister, "to direct foreign relations." According to the letter and spirit of this provision, however, it is not up to the political parties or the FDP to consider or settle a foreign relations matter, such as relations with the United States. It is the current president, Manuel Solis Palma, or whoever succeeds him as head of the government, who must take the measures he regards as best for the nation.

4. Conclusions

What the government sector has presented, however, is not a solution to the problem at hand but a clear-cut definition of the stance and views of all the involved parties regarding a situation that is evidently affecting nearly every aspect of the nation's life. The economic aggression, the military threat, and the systematic and persistent violation of the treaties are not a "ghost" or the result of nationalist demagoguery. These are concrete realities that we all see, feel, and suffer. The government does not plan to boast in public or throw stones at armored vehicles but to define postures and positions to defend rights that have been arbitrarily violated and to report inexcusable outrages that harm our self-determination and democratic authenticity.

Chamber of Commerce President on Declining Sales

PA2607043689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Interview with Chamber of Commerce President Alfredo Maduro by unidentified reporter on 25 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Maduro] At present, we cannot talk about an economic recovery. We all want that recovery, but we all know that no economic recovery is possible without a solution to the country's political crisis.

What is happening now is that we are returning to the sales levels of January and February 1989. During those months, we sold 20 percent of what we sold during the same period in 1987. Obviously, April and May 1989 were catastrophic months for the national economy. Sales dropped drastically, especially in May. Compared to April and May, sales increased considerably in June because of Father's Day and the beginning of the school year. Sales in June went back up to the levels reached in January and February 1989.

The fact that we are again selling 20 percent of what we were selling at the beginning of 1987 can hardly be described as an economic recovery. I believe an economic recovery would be a return to the normal sales levels we registered in 1987. An economic recovery would be to sell more than what we sold in 1987 and to have very good expectations for the future. Last month's sales levels are certainly not a sign of an economic recovery.

[Reporter] In view of the current economic situation and the current political uncertainty, what future is there for the Panamanian economy?

[Maduro] According to what the members of the Chamber of Commerce have told us, we believe sales will continue to be 20 percent of what they were in early 1987. We are using early 1987 as the basis of our comparison, because it was the last year in which sales were normal in Panama and a year in which we had political problems of limited duration.

We believe that as far as sales are concerned, 1989 will be even worse than 1988, even though we lost almost 1 month of sales in 1988.

Argentina

Proposal for Sharing Falklands Administration

PY2507135889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1253 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jul (EFE)—Argentina, in an "unofficial" message sent to the British Embassy in Montevideo, has made a proposal to the United Kingdom to share the administration of the Malvinas Islands for 25 years. This was reported today by the Buenos Aires newspaper CLARIN.

Government sources told the newspaper that the Argentine proposal provides for the participation of the United States or the United Nations as a guarantor of the agreement, which would put an end to the conflict over sovereignty over the islands.

The sources indicated that Argentina "could possibly accept the presence of troops of the Western military alliance in the islands as a final point of the pact" with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government.

They stressed that the Argentine proposal was submitted to the British Government "through diplomatic channels" with the assent of Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and the approval of President Carlos Menem.

The "unofficial" Argentine message was handed to Ambassador [word indistinct] John Sharkey, who 1 week ago replaced Eric Vines as British ambassador in Montevideo.

Sharkey, who says he has a "direct line" to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, is considered by Buenos Aires diplomatic circles to be "well-versed" in Latin American affairs.

CLARIN highlights the fact that between [year indistinct] and 1987 Sharkey headed the British Interests Office that has operated out of the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires since 1982, when Argentina and Great Britain broke off diplomatic relations due to the Malvinas War.

Menem Denies Falklands Proposal

PY2507171689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpt] President Raul Menem today denied that the Argentine Government has submitted a proposal to Great Britain through Montevideo.

Menem said: There is absolutely nothing to that. [passage omitted]

* Rise in Argentine Immigration Expected

44000557z Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 89 p 8

[Article by Charles Hoffman: "Economic Imperative"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Israel can expect a doubling of immigrants from Argentina this year. Most are leaving due to the terrible economic situation, and not necessarily because of fears of what lies ahead under Menem, the newly-elected Peronist president of Syrian background.

The economic chaos in Argentina has hit the Jewish community very hard, forcing thousands to seek welfare and leaving many people who are trying to get out without enough money to buy a suitcase or a passport, according to an Israeli who recently returned from a visit there.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that salaries and savings are being ravaged by monthly inflation of 70 percent, and that banks are charging 300 percent monthly interest. "There is also a severe cash shortage. Even people with money in the banks are not allowed to take all of it out, and employees can't even draw the full amounts on their meagre paycheques."

He said that economic contradictions abound in Argentina, a country rich in industrial and agricultural productive capacity but plagued by reckless government deficit spending and a huge external debt (about $60 billion). This week the government suspended civil liberties for a month in an attempt to quell food riots and other violence.

"Most of the Jewish community, with the exception of the very rich upper stratum, has suffered greatly. Many Jews in the university-trained middle class of public service employees and professionals have lost their jobs, and business has been hit by a major slowdown. The stores are full of goods, but prices shoot up by the hour and no one can afford to buy anything.

"People who want to sell their flats or stores and leave are forced to take big losses. Because of the economic and political uncertainty, no one wants to buy; and even if they do sell, foreign exchange rates are so bad that they are left with very little to take out. A four-room flat that was worth $150,000 last year can now be bought for only $10,000."

Jews, along with others, have been evicted from their flats because they can't afford to keep up the rent, and more and more Jews are turning to the Jewish community for welfare. Some Jews can't even afford to bury their dead in the communal cemetery any more.

One indication of the extent of the economic malaise among the Jews, he said, is that even some big contributors to Israel, who always felt that aliya was for the less fortunate, are now talking about coming to Israel.

What is pushing people out of the country, he said, including the Jews, is mainly the terrible economic situation, not necessarily fears of what lies ahead under Menem, the newly-elected Peronist president of Syrian background.

"The Jewish community is still very confused about the outcome of the elections, and you find a broad range of speculation about what will happen under Menem. No expects him, however, to come up with a workable plan to save the economy. There have already been hints, though, that his party intends to strengthen the nationalistic and religious elements in the school system, which of course worries the Jews."

The economic uncertainty is creating "huge lines outside the Spanish and Italian embassies. Not only the Jews are leaving—many Argentinians are of Spanish or Italian descent. These embassies have stopped taking applications, and only the very rich can think about trying to get into the U.S."

Jewish Agency officials believe that aliya from Argentina will double this year to about 3,000 people. Those who want to inquire about aliya have a three-week wait to see a shaliah (aliya emissary), but aliya offices there are to be reinforced soon.

"Most of the Jews a[illegible] here for economic reasons," acknowledg[illegible]l. "Only a minority come for Jewish reaso[illegible]igh intermarriage rate, which in the smalle[illegible]reach 70 percent. The rate in Buenos Aires i[illegible] percent.

"Many of those applying to come here can't afford to buy a plane ticket to another country, and we have to help them with basic needs such as clothes and suitcases. This is an unusual aliya—of needy western Jews. When they come here, they can't even think about taking out a mortgage, because it doesn't cover the full cost of a flat.

"But they are willing to settle just about anywhere here, if we can assure them of a roof over their heads, a job and school for their children." Most of the Argentinian aliya of the past year or so has gone to towns in the north such as Migdal Ha'emeq, Carmiel and Upper Nazereth, and most of the olim have been placed either in absorption centres or in public rental housing.

"Many of the olim are young, and if they make out they will bring their parents over. It all depends on us, on whether we can take advantage of this opportunity, and offer them the housing and job solutions that they need. "If we don't provide solutions for them, the better off among them may just go to Spain. We could have a new neshira (drop-out) problem on our hands, and it will be our fault."

Chile

Poll Reveals Aylwin Holds Lead Over Buchi

PY2507191889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] According to a poll taken by the Contemporary Study Center—CERC—presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin, who is running for the coalition of parties for democracy, has the broadest support among voters.

The results, which were released today, indicate that Aylwin led the poll with 53.9 percent of the votes, while Hernan Buchi received 35.3 percent of the votes.

Compared to the results of another poll performed by the CERC in April 1989, these results show that Aylwin's support grew by 4.5 percentage points, while Buchi's support remained unchanged.

The poll was carried out between 28 June and 13 July in greater Santiago, and 700 people were polled. The results were released by Sociologist Carlos Huneeus.

[Begin Huneeus recording] Another question that was included in the poll allowed the people to give their opinion on the possible winning candidate. Who do you think will win, regardless of your own vote? For this question, Aylwin received 60.6 percent of the votes, while Buchi dropped slightly to 35 percent. In case of an electoral confrontation between Aylwin and Sergio Onofre Jarpa, 59 percent of those polled supported Aylwin and 22.7 percent supported Jarpa.

In the case of more than one candidate for the so-called centrist-rightist sector, Aylwin received 52.3 percent; that is, an absolute majority in greater Santiago. Hernan Buchi dropped a bit to 30 percent, while Jarpa received the support of 7.9 percent of those polled. [end recording]

Another question in the poll focused on General Augusto Pinochet continuing as commander in chief of the Army. Seventy-one percent of those polled answered that it would be better for Chile if Pinochet left his post, while 23 percent answered that he should keep his post as commander in chief of the Army.

The poll reveals that the people are greatly interested in participating in the plebiscite on the constitutional amendments. Ninety-five percent of those polled said they will participate in the plebiscite on 30 July.

Volodia Teitelboim Returns From Europe

PY2507191989 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] PCCh [Communist Party of Chile] Secretary General Volodia Teitelboim has returned to the country. He reaffirmed Communist support for Patricio Aylwin's candidacy and to the process of land occupation.

Teitelboim returned after a lengthy tour through Europe where he held several meetings, especially with leaders of the World Union of Christian Democrats in Italy.

Teitelboim reiterated his criticism of the plebiscite that will be held on Sunday, but asked for the unity of the opposition to support Patricio Aylwin's candidacy.

The PCCh leader said that his party supports the illegal occupation of properties, which he termed as a constructive process by the people.

PCCh Youth on Land Occupations, Congress

PY2507035889 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p C-4

[Text] The PCCh [Communist Party of Chile] youth yesterday proclaimed the people's right to continue the illegal occupation of shantytowns and empty lots in demand of housing. The PCCh youth criticized opposition politicians for questioning their methods and warned that the PCCh will continue to promote "social mobilizations."

"The PCCh will be present at all people's struggles for their rights," said PCCh youth Guillermo Sherping.

Besides, the document convening the eighth national PCCh youth congress in the coming months praises the resurgence and activity of the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] and encourages Communist youth to participate in its activities.

Regarding criticism by leaders of the coalition [Coalition of Parties for Democracy, CPPD] of the 17 July takeover of the Dali subdivision in La Pintana and its violent consequences, Sherping said it is essential that opposition politicians visit the neighborhood and talk with the people to get acquainted with their problems.

Sherping said: "We have always considered legitimate all actions to satisfy the demands of our people. Sherping added that the upcoming electoral campaign does not imply we have to abandon such practices.

Sherping said the La Pintana occupation was sponsored by the social organization Settlers Metropolitan Coordinating Board. Sherping added that many Communist militants are active in this organization.

The Communist youth also released a document convening their eighth national congress. The document elaborates on the topics that will be discussed during the congress.

The 28-page document reports that the youth congress will discuss a central committee report, reform of internal regulations, the election of a new central committee, and the approval of political resolutions.

The chapter entitled "Military Policy and Youth" says that "the military policy is a permanent and indispensable element" in the strategy of popular rebellion. The chapter also says that the need to defeat the regime "demanded the drafting of military plans and military training."

Net Reserves, Trade Surplus Figures Announced

PY2507124389 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Jul 89 p B-1

[Summary] It was reported yesterday that the accumulated trade surplus for the January-May 1989 period totals $928.2 million. During this period, Chile exported $3,376,900,000 and imported $2,448,700,000.

It was also reported that the net reserves totaled $2,906,000,000 in May 1989, $356,100,000 higher than the reserves in December 1988, whey they totaled $2,549,900,000.

Colombia

Londono on Incident With U.S. Customs Agents

PA2607044989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes returned from Washington without clothes and without luggage, but they were not stolen. They were damaged by U.S. Customs agents. At least the foreign minister was able to discuss the incident with U.S. State Department officials and discussed our country's relations with the United States with them.

Imagine, the United States first supported the dissolution of the international coffee pact and now it has ruined our foreign minister's luggage. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

They [U.S. customs agents] punctured Londono's luggage just like they puncture Colombian flower boxes. The perforations ruined his suits, shirts, shorts, and shoes to such an extent that he threw the clothing away.

This is the second time that this has happened to the foreign minister, who complained to U.S. authorities on behalf of dozens of Colombians who are humiliated when they go through U.S. Customs.

Since U.S.-Colombian relations are at their best right now, it is expected that the minister's complaint will be heard.

[Begin Londono recording] I am not asking for preferential treatment. I am only asserting myself as a Colombian. It is a matter that is over with; however, the only thing I have stressed is that if they keep puncturing my suitcases every time I go to the United States, I am going to be left without clothes. I will have to travel next time in shorts and tennis shoes. I have not asked for compensation or the replacement of my belongings because other compatriots, who have gone through a similar experience, are not allowed to do so. [end recording]

*** Paramilitary, FARC Leaders Interviewed**

*** Transcript of Broadcast**

33480225 Bogota TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Jun 89 p 3-A

[Text] The following is a summary of the second part of the television program "Enviado Especial" [special correspondent], the broadcast of which the government banned last week.

This transcript has never been published before. The participants were, on one side, Manuel Marulanda Velez ("Tirofijo") and Jacobo Arenas, commanders of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and, on the other, Luis Arturo Ramirez, the national chief of the Peasant Self-Defense Groups.

[Tirofijo] We began organizing the self-defense groups in the 1950's because the peasants needed to defend themselves against the gangs of "Pajaros" [birds], in other words, the paramilitary groups that were going around causing chaos throughout the region.

These self-defense groups, which were created after the Communist Party proposed them as a way to repel violence back then, were widely welcomed. That is the difference between them and the self-defense groups today, which are official and run by the government and a few military commands. This is why we call them paramilitary groups.

[Luis Ramirez] The FARC in this region were the first to organize us in peasant self-defense groups consisting of regulars and the masses. These self-defense groups were designed to be a weapon with which we could battle the army and prevent it from reaching its camps. The FARC ordered peasants to kill peasants because they didn't give them their cut, because they didn't run errands for them, because they didn't bring them the remittances, because they didn't collect their money.

That was their way of operating. They attacked and ambushed patrols and killed soldiers and policemen, and the only sin that a soldier or a policeman committed to get ambushed by the communist guerrillas was to serve democracy. That's the only sin that a humble servant of the homeland needs to commit: serving democracy. So that's the difference: the regular and mass self-defense groups with the guerrillas are ambushing, killing. And our self-defense groups just live on our plots of land and work. We just live and work the land to grow food and feed the cities, which are just full of poverty belts today. There is nothing but unemployment and hunger there today. And who are the unemployed today? The peasants that the guerrillas have taken out of the fields and sent to create poverty belts so that they can later fish in troubled waters.

[Castro] (to Ramirez) When all is said and done, though, you're paramilitary, aren't you, and if not, what are you?

[Ramirez] We have made the mistake that the communist left always wanted us to make. They're talking about paramilitary groups, referring to the brave and determined peasants who have decided to stand up to the guerrillas. But since we don't have weapons or uniforms, which are for the exclusive use of the Military Forces, we aren't paramilitary groups. We're peasants by birth.

What we did was to join together with the Armed Forces of Colombia, bringing them information about where the guerrillas were, bringing them information about where they were holding kidnap victims, bringing them information about where they had their camps, bringing them information about where they had their training camps. So, with our cooperation, the government forces have managed, in some regions of Colombia, to eradicate the guerrillas. We're peasants and we work together with the State passively, by providing information. The only paramilitary groups in Colombia today are the communist guerrillas. This is why we see the FARC, the ELN [Army of National Liberation], the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] and other groups that show up on TV and in press photographs, wearing clothing and carrying weapons that are for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces. So they're the real paramilitary groups in Colombia.

[Castro] You're anticommunist, aren't you?

[Ramirez] We're not anticommunist. We're defending ourselves against the armed communist groups.

[Jacobo Arenas] They're saying what they're told to say. When you read statements by people like him, you find that they really don't know that they're being used. Now then, it's not true that these groups are facing off against the guerrillas. Not at all. These groups are engaged in criminal activity against the unarmed people of the countryside.

[Castro] But have they come face to face anywhere?

[Arenas] Of course. Just recently in the area of the 24th Front some guerrilla comrades liquidated a group of them. The group attacked them and couldn't make a fight of it. Their weapons were found. That was south of Barrancabermeja.

[Castro] (to Ramirez) How do you finance yourselves?

[Ramirez] We have no outside source of financing. Our source of financing is what our fields produce, what our land produces. That's one of the sins: they think that we're financed by drug trafficking. I think that a coca laboratory was found in Antioquia. Peasant self-defense. Come on, a few guys died there. And were the guys who died there peasants? Have you seen any armed peasants around here?

[Castro] Are you talking about Monteloro and Yondo, where some self-defense groups were guarding a few labs?

[Ramirez] That's the sort of bad press that we decent peasants of Colombia are getting. That's our bad press. They say that everything that happens is the fault of the self-defense groups now. Look, now is the time to remember our civic leader, Pablo Emilio Guarin Vera, who one day in the Congress of the Republic they said belonged to MAS [Death to Kidnapers]. And he very bravely went before the TV cameras and said: "If belonging to MAS means fighting against the Communist Party's armed groups, then I belong to MAS." And they didn't bother him again. So I'm telling you that Colombia's peasants are decent, they're honorable, and we're not guarding any laboratory or financing ourselves with coca.

[Jacobo Arenas] We were talking about the self-defense group that the guerrillas from the 24th Front liquidated. On them they found lists of the peasants, of the big and medium-sized ranchers, even of the field workers themselves, who had to pay a monthly fee of 1,000 pesos. Ten pesos out of the price of every beer that field workers buy in stores goes to the self-defense groups. And they have to pay another 10 pesos for each pound of meat they buy. And then there are the fees that the big ranchers pay...or used to pay because they've started refusing. This won't last another 6 months.

[Castro] (to Tirofijo) Do the FARC engage in blackmail? Or don't they? Do they extort? Or don't they? Do they kidnap? Or don't they? So says the propaganda.

[Tirofijo] I would dare say to you that all of this talk of kidnaping, extortion, blackmail, and such things, I would dare say to you that this is not true. But I would also tell you that the people who say that the FARC make off with people's sons or daughters....

[Castro] Or that they demand that the peasants go into the village every 2 weeks to provide the guerrillas a market with peasant money....

[Tirofijo] They say things like that? It so happens that our recruits are volunteers. We have rules for our recruiting system. Now then, are people in some regions tired of the guerrillas' presence? They could well be, because we have several fronts and not everyone in those fronts is an angel. And infiltration is something else that's been happening to us. So there have been abuses, but they've been committed by the enemy infiltrators to discredit the guerrillas.

[Castro] (to Jacobo Arenas) For years now the public has been hearing that the FARC finance themselves through livestock 'protection money,' through extortion....Do you collect such taxes?

[Arenas] No, no. That's a campaign, among other things, by the military. Guerrillas, and I'm not talking about the FARC, don't need that sort of financing policy. Guerrillas can't exist, moreover, unless they have the support of the masses.

[Castro] (to Tirofijo) Everyone from the press to the defense minister says that some of your money comes from coca, and one would think that....

[Tirofijo] If only that were true, because then we could buy a lot of weapons and solve a logistics problem. The very thing they've made up has proved them wrong, because if it were true, the situation would be different.

[Castro] (to Ramirez) And the self-defense groups have been guilty of excesses too, the slaughter of judges and judicial policemen in La Rochela, for example. The public saw no justification for that. Why did you do it?

[Ramirez] For God's sake and for the sake of us peasants, who know, the judges were killed by the 12th Front of the FARC. Commander Romana of the 12th Front of the FARC killed them. He was the one who massacred those people, thinking that MAS personnel were riding in those cars.

[Jacobo Arenas] Well, that was what they said at first, but they couldn't stick to that story because the survivors reported that the crime had been committed by that paramilitary group, and that became clear.

[Castro] (to Ramirez) What side are you on?

[Ramirez] Look, our struggle in the self-defense groups is not a political struggle. We're not rightwing, of course, nor leftwing (crosses himself). We're on the side of the National Government, because we respect the National Constitution, we respect the law, and we obey the authorities.

[Castro] So what's your ideology? What do you think?

[Ramirez] We think that armed subversives shouldn't come into our fields, that they should leave us alone to work in peace, just as we're working now, in justice and with respect for the law and for institutions.

[Jacobo Arenas] It's very unlikely that a poor peasant would say that, when he doesn't even know what the constitution is, what institutions are. He's saying this because they've told him: 'You have to recite this.' Come on now, if a person has spent 50 years studying in this struggle and still gets mixed up about this, just imagine what a poor fellow who can't even read or write is going to be like....

[Castro] (to Ramirez) Would you enter into a dialogue with the other Colombians who are waging war, as a way to achieve peace?

[Ramirez] No. We're not in favor of sitting down for a dialogue, because we respect the National Constitution and we have representatives. We went to the polls and voted freely and spontaneously to elect those representatives. If they want to dialogue with the communist guerrillas, let them. But listen to me now: on the day that peace is signed, on the day that the communist guerrillas put down their weapons, the peasant self-defense groups no longer have any reason to exist. But if a peace treaty is signed and the weapons are not put down, the guerrillas will keep on operating, and our peasant self-defense groups will remain ready to defend themselves against any attack, no matter where it comes from.

[Jacobo Arenas] The military has no doubt instructed them to say this too. There is really no reason for us to enter into any sort of a dialogue with bandits, with murderers, with thieves, with society's shameless people. No!

* Officer Linked to Group

33480225 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish
28 Jun 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Text] Bogota—Leon Guillermo Tarazona Correa, a National Army captain who was discharged from active duty late last year for misconduct, is the person who, under the name Luis Antonio Ramirez, has proclaimed himself the supreme chief of the "peasant self-defense groups" that are operating in the Magdalena Medio and other regions of the country.

Tarazona Correa was identified definitively through investigations conducted by the army intelligence service. The news was made public yesterday by the Information and Press Office of the Defense Ministry, one of whose spokesmen stated that the decision to release the information to the public was made to show once again that the military has nothing to hide.

According to the same source, Tarazona Correa was discharged from active duty by decision of the National Government through decree number 2,493 of 30 November 1988, after he had been found guilty of a series of actions that violated military regulations, clearly constituted misconduct, and aroused suspicion that he had engaged in unlawful acts.

400 Homicides

As was said before, the former captain, interviewed on the TV program "Enviado Especial," said he was the chief of the so-called "Peasant Self-Defense Groups," and besides contending that he had an army of 5,000 men under his command, acknowledged having killed 400 communist guerrillas and "rescued" more than 600,000 hectares that the FARC had controlled.

The program in question was to be broadcast, according to announcements, in three parts and also included statements from rebel ringleaders Manuel Marulanda Velez ("Tirofijo"), Jacobo Arenas, and Alfonso Cano. It was not aired, however, pursuant to a decision by the national government, inasmuch as on the program the rebel leaders, as well as the man who calls himself Ramirez, tried to justify their assaults on law and order and blamed each other for the lengthy string of crimes in the Magdalena Medio and other regions beset by violence.

The government's decision was made through the National Television Council at the request of the president of the Republic himself, Virgilio Barco Vargas, and the minister of communications, Carlos Lemos Simmonds. It also forbade other television stations to use material from the program because, in the government's view, its content was not in keeping with the standards that govern TV broadcasting in Colombia.

Inquiries

As far as can be gathered, after previews for the series of interviews appeared in several mass media, the army's intelligence service began a number of inquiries that established the real identity of the chief of the "peasant self-defense" groups, who boasted so loudly about killing 400 communists and about the power of his "army."

Tarazona Correa was identified even though he appeared on the videotapes with a beard and glasses, in other words, looking very different than he did until the time that he was discharged from active duty in the army.

According to the Defense Ministry, the former captain is a native of the Boyaca municipality of San Mateo, where he was born on 23 July 1952, is married, and is the father of two children.

It was also reported that at the time he was discharged from the service, he was taking a course at the Army School of Weapons and Services in Bogota.

It bears adding that in a telephone call to this newspaper an individual who refused to identify himself denied that the former officer has anything to do with the self-defense groups.

Ecuador

Cordovez on Citibank Negotiations, Panama

PA2607021089 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Report on statements by Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez—date and place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said that the Ecuadoran Government is pleased with the positive results of the negotiations with Citibank. He acknowledged and praised the international support and solidarity received in connection with the impasse Ecuador had reached in its negotiations with this U.S. bank. Regarding the situation in Panama, Cordovez said that the OAS commission has fulfilled its objective, as acknowledged by the sides involved in the Panamanian conflict.

[Begin Cordovez recording] The Foreign Ministry is satisfied with the successful conclusion of the negotiations with the Citibank. I can say this now that the talks have ended. The broad expression of solidarity with our country is an index of the degree of respect and prestige that our country commands abroad. As you know, solidarity was expressed, not only unilaterally by friendly countries, but by international organizations such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is associated both with governments with which we maintain diplomatic relations and with those with which we do not. [end recording]

Debt Renegotiation Linked to Mexico's Debt

PA2607040689 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The agreement that Mexico reached with the creditor banks to refinance Mexico's foreign debt will largely determine the extent to which Ecuador's own foreign debt will be renegotiated, Ecuadoran experts said in Quito today.

Mexico agreed with the creditor banks to refinance 35 percent of its medium-and long-term commercial debt, which totals $53 million. Ecuador has yet to resume talks to refinance $5.7 billion, nearly half of its total debt.

Abelardo Pachano, chairman of the commission that will renegotiate Ecuador's debt in the coming weeks, said the extent of the Ecuadoran renegotiation will depend largely on the agreement to be struck by Mexico as part of the so-called Brady Plan.

Paraguay

Police Arrest Danish Citizen Carrying Pistol

PY2507160989 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Steen Rambo, a Danish widower, who lives on 945 Saravi Street, Villa Morra, is being held in a police unit and is undergoing interrogation. Rambo, a 46-year-old businessman, was arrested on 22 July in the grounds of the Paraguayan Rural Association (exhibition ground) by presidential guards. According to the report Rambo had a 9 mm pistol in a brief case.

According to first reports five Europeans were arrested but a reliable source confirmed that Steen Rambo, a Danish citizen, was the only one arrested. He is being interrogated about his activities in our country. He has been living for several months in a mansion on 945 Saravi Street which he rents. [passage omitted]

Police Silent on Former Colorado Deputy's Release

PY2507155789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 4

[Text] Martin Chiola, who belongs to the militant faction of the Colorado Party, was summoned to Central Police Headquarters in the morning and then released at 2030 yesterday.

Chiola is the main sponsor of the return of the militants, which supported the former Stroessner regime, to the political arena. He did not talk to the press while at the police headquarters or in his house.

There were also reports of the alleged arrest of Ramon Enrique Reverchon, former senator and former president of the Colorado Party Precinct of Encarnacion. Reverchon is also a leader of the Colorado Nationalist Movement, which is the new name for the militant faction, that is seeking to return to political activities.

No special report on this case was released by the police or by any other public office. There was little reaction to his detention from political circles.

When Edgard L. Ynsfran, one of the vice presidents of the Colorado Party Executive Board, was asked about Chiola's detention, he said that Chiola may have been held because "of a traffic accident or something like that."

His detention may be connected to the reactivation of the militant movement announced by Chiola in radio interviews, despite the opposition from official circles.

Peru

Interior Minister Interviewed at Bomb Site

PY2507231489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpts] In a violent clash between the forces of order and subversives, five people have been killed in Pueblo Libre District. Two subversives attacked several public places a few minutes ago.

As soon as he was told about the attack, Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla went to the site to investigate.

Several bombs were placed on the central lane of Sucre Avenue this morning, near the fourth block of the avenue. It is 0615, and members of the bomb squad are trying to defuse some bombs similar to those that exploded a few minutes ago. Other policemen are pulling down a red flag that was hung from some trees in a nearby park.

The Interbanc office on the fifth block of Sucre Avenue was the target of a violent terrorist attack.

Police at the site are warning newly arriving police not to touch a subversive flag hanging nearby, because a booby trap is hidden in it. [passage omitted]

A shopping center next to the bank office was also badly damaged. Interior Minister Mantilla is now arriving at the place of the attack. Although the attack started more than 20 minutes ago, the shootout still has not ended.

[Begin recording] [Mantilla] This was a surprise attack, swiftly conducted from a vehicle.

[Reporter] There have been rumors that your home has been attacked.

[Mantilla] No, no, my home has not been attacked yet.

[Reporter] Are there any booby traps?

[Mantilla] Yes, they are being defused by the policemen. They may be fake bombs, but only the police experts will be able to tell.

[Reporter] Has anyone been detained?

[Mantilla] No, no one has been detained. As soon as we have a report, we will make it known to the public. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr Minister, there have been rumors that there will be a strike in Huancayo to celebrate the Peruvian national day. What can you tell us about it?

[Mantilla] There are rumors everywhere in the country. Unfortunately, we help spread those rumors. If the rumors become a reality, the national police will thwart that attack with the same effectiveness they showed againt the last strike here in Lima. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Terrorists Kill Three Policemen

PY2507133589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2041 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—An Interior Ministry spokesman reported today that three policemen died and two were seriously injured in an armed confrontation with a terrorist group in the locality of Pacaran, southeast of Lima.

The confrontation took place early Sunday morning when the terrorists used dynamite and machineguns in their attack on the National Police post in Pacaran. They told the five members of the police station to surrender.

The Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed that the Guard Juan de la Cruz, who was wounded during the attack, reported that the shootout continued for 5 hours and that the guerrillas chanted slogans characteristic of the Shining Path terrorist group.

The spokesman added that the terrorists, who left Pacaran in trucks, dynamited the bridge linking this town with Canete, 200 km south of Lima.

The attack on the police station took place a few hours after a group of presumed Shining Path terrorists shot to death Freddy Astete, 39, a councilman of the Tambo district near Huancayo, an Andean town located 315 km east of Lima.

This year, at least 60 members of the National Police and 12 mayors of the Junin Department, in the Central Mountain region, have been killed due to political violence.

Moreover, the National Mining Corporation has reiterated its concern over the 78 armed terrorist incursions to the mining sectors where they have caused losses amounting to more than $50 million over the past 9 years.

This corporation, made up of private businessmen, has demanded military protection in the mining plants, a sector which earns more than 50 percent of the currency obtained from Peruvian exports.

This mining corporation has also asked the 90,000 workers not to engage in the general strike scheduled for 3 August in demand of better salaries and the recognition of the mineworkers federation as the sole organization to represent all companies of the sector.

* Consequences of Vargas' Resignation Viewed

33480233b Lima CARETAS in Spanish 3 Jul 89 p 17

[Text] It must be admitted that for someone who detests politics Mario Vargas Llosa has been carried away by it. Last week seemed to have carried everything away, including literary glory, a desire to become involved in the struggle, and a bold desire to lead Peru. But now they have been brought back.

How wonderful! How wonderful!

And that new slogan which his supporters have invented—that phrase, "Mario changed politics and now will change Peru," is not bad, either. It is just that they should treat him with care to avoid provoking or humiliating his associates. This game is not over. It has just begun.

And please, no more sermons.

Whatever the real reasons which inspired the departure from the political scene of Vargas Llosa, they have turned into an important political maneuver. With or without changes, they have become a transatlantic political maneuver.

Turning his nose up at politics is finally absurd at this level because he is going to need much better political strategy to gain power and, above all, to exercise it.

In the Peru of today, which is going through political convulsions, politics at the highest level is the art of the impossible, rather than a sinecure or a privilege. And Vargas Llosa, in view of the extreme alternative which the AP-PPC [Popular Action-Popular Christian Party] agreement constituted and confronted with this final temptation, has chosen the path of risk and struggle. Let us take our hats off to him.

Now the mood should calm down in the Fredemo [Democratic Front]. The cure of silence would be well suited to the extremists who, in the name of Libertad have heaped an excess of blame on Belaunde and Bedoya and who, by expanding their insulting remarks to cover the political parties, have come dangerously close to what the organizers of military attempts to overthrow governments have always said.

In reality, the best thing which Libertad could do would be to circulate petitions and register as a political party, not so much for the purpose of presenting new candidates in the elections but as an act of contrition.

Some of the clowns of the Popular Action Party should also wake up. Ignoring the requests of the former president, they insisted on looking for a fight and breaking up the Fredemo. That would be unpardonable now.

Let this moment serve to give the lie to history and lead to the consolidation of a regime capable of governing this country in the 1990's. Without any illusions let these people fade away very quickly and rather bring together the experience of those who have already administered the affairs of the nation with the catalyzing energy of a new hope.

* Henry Pease on IU Infighting, Other Issues

33480232b Lima CARETAS in Spanish 19 Jun 89 pp 28-31

[Interview with Henry Pease Garcia, candidate for mayor of Lima, by Alberto Bonilla; date and place not given]

[Text] While the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] is waiting until July to choose its candidate and the Fredemo [Democratic Front] continues to be bogged down in interparty squabbling about its candidate, Municipal Councilor Henry Pease Garcia is refining his program for city government which—if he is elected—will continue the experiment of 1983-85, including a loan from the World Bank.

[CARETAS] Should you win the elections, will they be a springboard for the elections of 1990?

[Pease] The municipal elections will be a springboard for the IU [United Left] but not for Henry Pease, because I have no interest in the presidency. I want to be the mayor of Lima, not only to win back the excellent municipal administration which the IU led in 1984-86, headed by Alfonso Barrantes, but also to deal with the deep crisis which is affecting the people of Lima. We have proposals in hand and, obviously, the hope of carrying them forward.

[CARETAS] Are you committing yourself not to be a candidate at least in 1990?

[Pease] I have no interest in being a candidate for president.

[CARETAS] Then will you wait patiently until 1995?

[Pease] Quite sincerely, I have no electoral calendar or any list of positions I wish to hold. The only hope which Peru has of resolving its problems in 1990 is the IU, and that requires that we succeed in maintaining our unity. To do that, the IU must first win these municipal elections in Lima and in many other places and then carry on a national campaign. Furthermore, what seems fundamental to me is that any solution for Peru must be based on an organization with very strong participation by the people, and that will guarantee success in the municipal elections. It is clear that we cannot count on solutions from above. The cities must turn themselves into agents of proposals for change capable of offering, specifically on the basis of organizing the citizens, solutions for the present crisis which are cheaper, more comfortable, and more possible.

[CARETAS] We all know that the best candidate of the Left in the 1990 elections would be Alfonso Barrantes. However, do you think that he will finally be the candidate?

[Pease] I hope so. And specifically my contribution to make this possible has been to keep silent in the face of the incredible number of insults which some comrades have directed at me over the last several months. In the second place I think that the initiatives which have been taken within the Executive Committee, especially on the recommendation of Jorge del Prado, have been aimed at creating problems.

[CARETAS] Regarding those insults, there was the one referring to "disloyal on two occasions" which a representative of the Socialist Accord attributed to you. What did this refer to?

[Pease] You would have to ask them. I think that I have always been loyal, both to my ideas as well as to the people with whom I have worked. I believe that I have never made it a condition of friendship that people agree with what I think, because if you do that, no human relationship is possible. Those words cannot destroy 437 district and 57 provincial congresses, all of them held on the basis of direct and secret elections, which for the first time provided an opportunity for the rank and file of the IU to express themselves and which has now been confirmed. Today the members of the IU have regained for themselves the right to choose their candidates. That process has been of enormous democratic value, and I feel proud to be a candidate whom no single person designated.

[CARETAS] Moving to the question of municipal elections, what does the IU have to offer, apart from continuing to provide assistance to the people, such as the glass of milk program?

[Pease] I think that Lima has to regain the pace of municipal administration which in no way was characterized by mere assistance programs. Describing these programs as merely providing assistance is a serious misrepresentation of what was done. When these programs are based on organization and on the participation of the people, they are no longer merely assistance programs. We gave the city a balanced program of public works, over the medium term of years. As a result, some programs have been continued, while we took away from the control of Mayor Orrego that positive program, the initial management of the loan from the World Bank. Obviously, this program was reformulated during our administration of the city. The plan for the development of Lima was put into practice, and a very important part of the public works included in it has been completed, such as the super highways to the new towns. This has made it possible to improve in a substantial way communications with the poorest sectors of the population. On the other hand streets in the central part of the city were repaired and larger scale projects were undertaken. All of us see their results. Obviously, we have had difficulty with the logic of the commuter trains—not with the trains as such, which are a necessity for the city. However, carrying out a public works project without having a plan for it amounts to having a city for a train and not a train for the city. This is the same thing as having no priority at all. We have all the elements for saying that we are now responding to the realities of today and not to those of 6 years ago. We know that we have that project there and that there is something under way, although they have not given us enough information nor the plan for where it will run. We have to evaluate the commuter train project to give it continuity. Furthermore, we have to insist that the city have a major role in the project, which it does not have now.

[CARETAS] How much did the World Bank spend under the loan which was suspended?

[Pease] Some $20 million. I do not have the latest figures because portions of the loan have been spent under the present administration. For example, there were allocations under the loan for the purchase of garbage trucks which are now being questioned. However, the total released was about $20 million. And I will tell you something which is very important. The government in power at that time did not insist on any concession in return.

[CARETAS] There was no concession in return?

[Pease] And it was suggested that the city propose such a concession. With the reform of the tax system which we enacted between 1984 and 1985 we increased the Invermet [Metropolitan Investment] fund by a factor of 11. We committed the entire Invermet fund as a concession before the loan was allocated. That program was signed in June 1985, shortly before the Belaunde administration left office.

[CARETAS] Could the loan have been salvaged, despite the fact that the country was ineligible to receive it?

[Pease] It could have been saved if there had been an ability to spend the money, an ability to commit programs and projects.

[CARETAS] That is, completing the program for which that loan was contracted.

[Pease] Certainly. When the cut in the World Bank loan was made, they did not cut what was already being implemented. Therefore, what continued was the municipal sanitation program, which had been under way since our administration. When the project of the commuter trains came up, it was my responsibility to meet with a delegation from the World Bank at a time when Mayor Barrantes was on a trip. I recall their cold reaction. They felt that this country does things backwards. First it carries out a project and then it plans it. The first section of the program had just been inaugurated, and not a line of the plan had been prepared.

[CARETAS] Then there remained about $60 million, or perhaps a little less, to be spent under the loan. When you become mayor, will you try to renew the loan with the World Bank?

[Pease] I think that we must do it and, even more, I think that this is an experience which shows that a city can be more efficient in the management of an international project than many departments of the central government. In our administration we were never unable to spend money. On the contrary, we were ahead of schedule. We believe that we have a good record and good relationships. For example, the project for the construction of Avenida Brasil is questionable in itself because it means nothing. If it were continued, such action would affect the entire logic of the project, which includes an underground passage in Plaza Bolognesi, the remodeling undertaken in Alfonso Ugarte, an underground passage in the Plaza Dos de Mayo, and the connection with Tupac Amaru Avenue.

[CARETAS] But that would imply expenditures which the city is not in a position to....

[Pease] That project was one of the public works programs financed by the World Bank. Therefore, it is nonsense, on the one hand, to become involved in the World Bank project and then to undertake public works projects by segments, hoping that some day the connections will be built.

[CARETAS] Would it make sense to reestablish the loan with the commuter train included if its route is changed?

[Pease] I think that Mayor Del Castillo made efforts to make these programs compatible and I think that efforts can be made in this direction after the fact. However, now the situation is much more involved in the overall problem of national policy toward the World Bank. I think that this problem will have to be raised again.

[CARETAS] Now from the point of view of the next central government.

[Pease] Well, it is clear that the present government is not taking any action on this matter.

[CARETAS] What benefits do you see in the present administration under Dr Del Castillo?

[Pease] There are some points of continuity. However, I think that the municipal government as a whole, under the control of APRA, and here I do not wish to personalize the matter, as they say in politics, is a plodding municipality which has toyed with a host of problems. Even in the areas in which things were under way, there has been administrative and operational deterioration. I think that in that area it has committed itself basically to a sectarian point of view, thinking that because it has won an election, all of its plans will work better and that everything which went before was bad and that every technical official, including operations personnel held over from the previous administration, are enemies.

[CARETAS] This situation also involved the interference of the central government, which began during the administration of Alfonso Barrantes.

[Pease] Well, there has always been interference from the central government.

[CARETAS] For example, with reference to the electric commuter train. Barrantes was involved in a great deal of activity with President Garcia in support of the project.

[Pease] But Barrantes made sure that the essential part of the program was respected. That is, that the commuter trains should not be built without a municipal permit, as the Torres de San Borja segment was. As a result, the only section which could be approved under the city plan was located properly. The original concept was changed and was approved by the city. What happened is that the next phase was the final and electorally oriented segment, because in effect this project amounted to an electoral train.

[CARETAS] In any case, the commuter train system is again becoming an active question at election meetings.

[Pease] It is becoming active and, as they say, they are going to complete one section. Years ago in Mexico City there was a train which served a small line in the center of the city but which did not connect with anything. The measure of the importance of a train line is what communications are possible from both ends. Furthermore, there is the question of its capacity for expansion with all of its ramifications. If this is not the case, we are not talking about a real project.

[CARETAS] What self-criticism would you make of the first municipal administration of the IU and what mistake would you be unwilling to repeat?

[Pease] Well, we have completed only a part of our program because it was our first experience in government. For example, I would say that during the first year our attention was concentrated too much on the economic problem and then on matters of housing for the people. On matters dealing with all aspects of urban development we moved very slowly. In terms of the municipal administration itself we were also very late in reorganizing the city. The city is a mechanism for decentralization to free up the possibilities of providing leadership. I think that this delay also ensured that the experiments with participation by the people were also undertaken rather late. Nevertheless, they showed important results in the municipal agencies. Now we would use another name, because I think that the idea of an agency is too much identified with a bank or with the collection of taxes, and that is not logical. The fact is that

a heterogenous district like El Cercado has unity, sociologically speaking, in the residential neighborhoods, not unity in the district as such. Therefore, there must be a municipal delegation capable of providing essential services and capable of being the embryo of self-government, with very high levels of participation by the people. The advantage is that now we can begin on the first day, because we have the ideas which were previously under way.

[CARETAS] What will you do in the election campaign to overcome the image which the IU has after charges have been made that it is a revolutionary vanguard and that it is militaristic? These charges have been made against your principal parties, such as the UNIR [National Union of the Revolutionary Left] and the PUM [Mariateguist Unified Party].

[Pease] In the first place I think that all of the parties in the IU are principal parties. Regarding those accusations, as Alfonso Barrantes has said very well in his last statement, it is an error to attribute them to political parties. There may be positions or persons in the vanguard, but this term cannot be attributed to their political parties. I think that the dividing lines which we have prepared against everything involved in terrorism in this country have been sufficiently clear. The IU, together with its own dead, are testimony of its determination to deal with the problem of violence.

* IU Defeat in 1990 Predicted

33480232a Lima CARETAS in Spanish 19 Jun 89 p 27

[Commentary by Luis Pasara: "Expected Defeat"]

[Text] The internal election within the IU [United Left], held on 11 June, was another milestone in what seems to portend an unavoidable split in the front established in 1980. This is a split which, when it is prolonged and causes enormous internal damage, makes it possible to anticipate the election defeat of the Left in 1990.

The people who now appear to have been reunited under the Socialist Accord have been trying for more than 1 year to pitch their tents separately. However, at this point, what might have been the development of a Center-Left option is dead.

It is true that a peaceful separation could have been achieved, in view of certain major and real differences between this sector and the PUM-UNIR [Mariateguist Unified Party-National Union of the Revolutionary Left]. However, the scruples of the moderates about making an open break as such and the style of Alfonso Barrantes have caused such a possibility to founder.

The differences have to do with the position of the leaders of both sectors of the Left in a democratic regime. The leaders of the Socialist Accord are firmly committed to the rules of the game. The supporters of the PUM and of the UNIR do not have all of their eggs in one basket. The Moscow leaning PC [Communist Party] is divided.

The first difficulty lies in the fact that the supporters of Barrantes have not known how to translate their real differences into a political program different from the one proposed by the ultras. In day to day politics the different factions appear to have relatively minor differences between them, except when they are asked to define their positions regarding an armed struggle or a democratic regime.

As a result of this political weakness the Socialist Accord group is seeking a separation but insists on proclaiming its adherence to the agreements reached at the IU congress in January 1988. This is a significantly incoherent position and is disorienting to the rank and file members of IU. That is the reason for the insistent demand from the lower ranks of the front that unity be maintained. The members of IU do not understand what the differences are and tend to think that they are purely personal.

The second problem has been the Barrantes style of seeking a break without its appearing that this is happening. This tactic—aimed at carrying off a major piece of the IU at the time of the break and, in particular, winning over the PC—has increased the confusion.

Senator Enrique Bernales once chose a different way of describing the problem. He characterized the differences as those between "oil and water." However, shortly afterwards Alfonso Barrantes caught him off balance when he issued new appeals for a kind of unity in which he can believe only with difficulty.

In refusing to appear as the captain of his team, the Socialist Accord group, so that he could stand as an umpire between the ultras and the moderates, Barrantes took the game further than was prudent—not only because he has disavowed his own people, causing concern and demoralization among them, but because he has shown an excessive skill in maneuvering. He has a lack of openness, Gorbachev would say. This is a feature which could give us unwelcome surprises from the office of the president of the Republic.

Without a specific ideological definition, at times the separation which the Socialist Accord proposes in a half-hearted and vacillating way looks like nonsense. Certainly, this will strengthen the radical sector among the members of the IU. However, this element lacks a leader with national electoral standing.

Hence, under any of the electoral scenarios of the Left, defeat is probable. If Barrantes were the candidate of a patched up front, the casualties resulting from such a

process of division would be an enormous dead weight. His campaign would remind us of Villanueva's in 1980, which was sabotaged from within.

If Barrantes should decide to be the candidate of the Socialist Accord group—contrary to his statements prior to his most recent trip to Chile—he would have very little time to define his own image before the rank and file of the Left and in the eyes of the country. And the now increased number of enemies in the ultra camp would be more aggressive against him than Vargas Llosa.

Finally, if each sector of the Left should present its own candidate and Barrantes does not participate, all that would be involved would be the respective number of seats in parliament. Vargas Llosa would win more clearly in a "walk over."

The Left seems to have closed off its electoral prospects for 1990. Despite the appearances, this self-elimination does not favor anyone. It weakens the democratic system. Soon a broad sector of society—the rank and file of the Left—will find itself without a candidate in the elections who can play the role of a winner.

Venezuela

Minister on Foreign Debt Renegotiation Efforts

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[Text] Caracas, 25 Jul (EFE)— Pedro Tinoco, president of the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV), said today that his country will continue to insist on the pardoning of $10 billion of its foreign debt. During a television program, Tinoco said that the current administration will focus its efforts abroad to convince creditor banks to reduce the Venezuelan debt.

The BCV president and Miguel Rodriguez, the coordination and planning minister, were members of a Venezuelan negotiating team that proposed last week to creditor banks in the United States that the Venezuelan foreign debt be reduced.

Venezuela, which has a foreign debt of about $30 billion, proposed a 50-percent reduction on its capital and interest payments, but the creditor banks rejected this request. Tinoco said that the IMF and World Bank have supported Venezuela's efforts to find solutions to its foreign debt problem.

Meanwhile, Christian Democratic Party Deputy Pedro Pablo Aguilar said that it will be difficult for Venezuela to convince banks to pardon $10 billion of its debt. However, Aguilar—a leader of the opposition Social Christian Party (COPEI)—added that all debtor countries in the region find it impossible to pay their respective foreign debts under the conditions established by the banks.

Venezuela signed an agreement to refinance $21 billion of its foreign debt. However, because of a drop in oil foreign currency revenues, Venezuela was forced to ask the banks to revise the agreement to reflect the new situation in the country.